

March - April
2017

First Presbyterian Church of Taos

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Dear friends,

I have been trying to figure out how to start my first letter to you, the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. At first, I was leaning toward going with, "Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." That sounds pretty official, doesn't it?

And I do hope for each of you, every day, that you experience the grace and peace of God and the comforting and accompanying presence of Jesus Christ in your lives. But I'm not so sure that official is the tone I want to set. I think I'd rather go for authentic.

It is Lent, after all. And if we can't be authentic with one another during the liturgical season of Lent – during a period of forty days that we set aside to confess our sins and acknowledge our brokenness, trusting that we worship a Lord who can handle that brokenness because his own body was broken and given for us – then why are we doing this 'church thing' anyway?

It has been nothing short of a blessing to spend these last two months getting to know you and this church community. During December, as I was frantically packing and finishing up my work in Louisville, I made it a spiritual discipline to spend a few minutes every morning to pray for First Presbyterian Church. I prayed for God to prepare us to welcome one another, to love one another, and to dream big dreams for our future together. I don't know about you all, but for my part, I feel like God has answered my prayers abundantly – with your gracious welcome, your sincere love, and the beginnings of some incredible dreams for this church and for the community of Taos.

So friends, let's continue to be authentic, welcoming, and loving of one another. And most of all, let's keep dreaming.

Much peace to you all,

Rev. Ginna Bairby



PREPARING
our HEARTS
for EASTER

Greetings!

What is Lent? The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word "lengthen," which simply means "spring" — when the days lengthen and new life springs forth. It is a time in which we anticipate the victory of the light and life of Christ over the darkness of Sin and Death. It is, to borrow a phrase from C.S. Lewis, a season of a kind of "happiness and wonder that makes you serious." It is our prayer that as you journey with us from Ash Wednesday to Easter, you would be reminded of the reality of our broken humanity, but as days grow brighter, you would experience with greater abundance the reality of God's Redeeming Grace. And so, just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or commencement, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' Death and Resurrection.

May this month bring you happiness satisfaction, peace and victory.
May all desires of your heart be granted.
May this be the beginning of new life, new things and new joys in your life.
Stay strong, be positive and fulfill your dreams.
Keep your spirit and determination unshaken and you shall always walk the glory road.
With courage, faith and trust in God you shall conquer everything you desire.

Mayra Burris
Administrative Assistant



Directory Update

Verify & Update Your Information

Has your contact information changed?

Please email or call in any updates for our church directory.

We would like mailing addresses if it is different from you physical address.

If you have an email address please let us know so can add it to our list.

Please call the church office at:

(575) 758-3124 or email us at presbychurch@qwestoffice.net by March 30th



Peter Balon
P.O. Box 1595
Taos, NM 87513
Home: (510) 915-1659
E-mail: PRBalon@gmail.com

Karla Miller
28 Archuleta
Ranchos De Taos, NM 87557
Home: (575) 758-2734
E-mail: ar bucklekarla@gmail.com

Thank you!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, January 29, 2017, First Presbyterian Church was excited to welcome two new members into our congregation: Karla Miller and Peter Balon. Learn a little more about them here, and make sure to give them a warm welcome when you see them in worship!



Peter Balon

Peter was raised in New Hampshire and went to undergraduate school at the University of New Hampshire. He works in taxation and has worked/studied in Rhode Island, Washington, DC, San Francisco, and London, and Silicon Valley.

Last year, he moved to New Mexico, finding First Presbyterian of Taos and a community of warm and charming people like he says he's never experienced before. Though he has recently accepted another position back in California, he plans to build his retirement home on the mesa and return to Taos as often as possible and continue to be a member for First Presbyterian, if only part time until then.

Karla Miller

Karla Miller comes to us from Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, Kansas. She is married to Rodney Miller, and combined, their family has six children and eight grandchildren. Karla is a retired nurse who enjoys spending her time gardening, quilting, and building doll houses.





Ash Wednesday March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.



Holy Week April 9 - 15, 2017

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate the first joy of the season, as we celebrate Jesus's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, where he was welcomed by crowds worshipping him and laying down palm leaves before him. It also marks the beginning of Holy Week, with the greatest tragedy and sorrow of the year.



Palm Sunday April 9, 2017

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.



Maundy Thursday April 13, 2017

Maundy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion.



Good Friday April 14, 2017

Good Friday is the day on which we commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. According to the gospels, Jesus was betrayed by Judas on the night of the Last Supper, the following day, he was convicted by both the religious and political authorities. He was crucified, died, and was buried in a tomb, with a heavy stone rolled over the entrance.



Easter Sunday April 16, 2017

On Easter we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. The triumph of God's love and life over death. Easter Sunday marks the end of the season of Lent and the beginning of the season of Easter.



“Why I Love Ash Wednesday and Lent” by Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber

From <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/nadiabolzweber/2012/02/>

Part 1: Sin

Ash Wednesday is my favorite day of the church year and Lent is my favorite season. Our culture has quite ruined Christmas and Easter with Santa and the Easter Bunny and all the grotesque consumerism and made-for-TV specials behind all of it. But oddly nobody waits every year to watch the Ash Wednesday Peanuts Special. There are no door buster sales at 4am on the first day of Lent. There are no big garish displays in the middle of Cherry Creek Mall with mechanical children in sackcloth and ashes. Nope. We get this one all to ourselves. Our culture has no idea what to do with a day that celebrates the fact that we all sin and are going to die. But sin is strangely enough one of my favorite things to talk about. I sometimes greet my friends by saying “hello sinner”. It’s a term of deep affection. I reclaim the word sinner.

I love to talk about sin, which makes little sense to people who want to label me as a liberal. I think perhaps that *actual* liberals equate admitting we are sinful with having low self-esteem. And then the conservatives equate sin with immorality (only sometimes do sin and immorality converge). So one end of the church tells us that sin is an antiquated notion that only makes us feel bad about ourselves, so we should avoid mentioning it at all. While the other end of the church tells us that sin is the same as immorality and totally avoidable if you are just a good squeaky clean Christian. But when sin is boiled down to low self-esteem and immorality then it becomes something we can control or limit in some way rather than something we are in bondage to. The reality is that I cannot free myself from the bondage of self. I cannot keep from being turned in on self. I cannot by my own understanding or effort disentangle myself from my self-interest and when I think that I can I am trying to do what is only God’s to do.

To me, there is actually great hope in admitting my mortality and brokenness because then I finally lay aside my sin management program and allow God to be God for me. Which is all any of us really need when it comes down to it.

Part 2: Death

In the rest of our lives it seems that we are consumed by the hopeless project of ensuring our own immortality. As though we can live forever or fend off the insult of aging with the right combination of exercise, diet, self-care and if we can afford it, elective surgery. Face creams, hair die, yoga. The offers of false promise are all around us. Luring us into the delusion of endless youth as though we can buy our way out of the foundational truth of who we are. Mortal.

But while we are denying the truth, God is delighting in it.

This is what we hear in Psalm 51:

*Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
And would have me know wisdom deep within.*

That’s the desert we journey through in these 40 days of Lent. The wilderness of the truth deep within us. A wisdom which is not of this world. We journey with Jesus through the desert of Lent, but it’s almost as though we have to clear through a whole lot of brush to even get to desert. Lent is about hacking through self-delusion and false promises. Lent is about looking at our lives in as bright a light as possible, the light of Christ, to illumine that which moth and rust can consume and which thieves can steal. It is during this time of self-reflection and sacrificial giving and prayer that we make our way through the over grown and tangled mess of our lives. We trudge through the lies of our death-denying culture to seek the simple weighty truth of who we really are.

This is not a season of taking up self-denial, it’s a season of relinquishment. We let go of all the pretenses and destructive independence from God. We let go of defending ourselves. We let go of our indulgent self-loathing. Like the prodigal son, we then begin to see a loving God running with abandon to welcome us home. But we can’t begin to see this God until we turn from our arrogance and certainty and cynicism and ambivalence. The Psalmist says that God delights in the truth that is deep in us. The truth. God doesn’t delight in the purity of our doctrine or the perfection of our piety. God delights in the truth and wisdom underneath all the overgrowth of despair and false pride. Therefore there’s no shame in the truth of who we are; the broken and blessed beloved of God. There’s no shame in the truth that our lives on earth will all end and that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

It’s not depressing. What’s depressing is the desperation of trying to pretend otherwise. What’s depressing is to insist that I can free myself, I just haven’t managed to pull it off yet. What is so wonderful about Ash Wednesday and Lent is that through being marked with the cross and reminded of our own mortality we are free. We are free to hear the song of our own salvation which tells of Christ who offers life and forgiveness. A song that sings of a God who creates clean hearts and renews our spirits.

A Poem for Easter

"Still I Rise"
by Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Digging' in my own backyard.

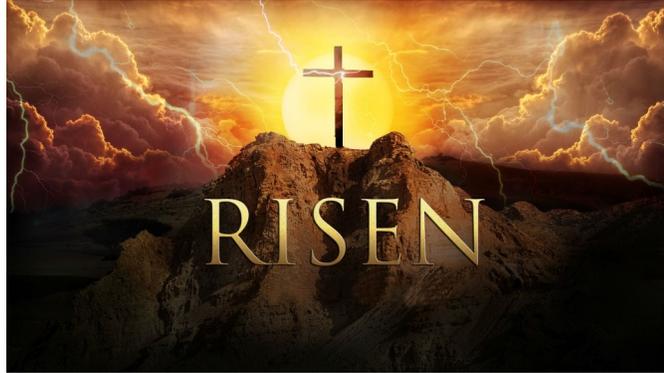
You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.

Maya Angelou, "Still I Rise" from And Still I Rise: A Book of Poems. Copyright © 1978 by Maya Angelou.



Easter is the Celebration of Christ's Resurrection from the dead. It is celebrated on Sunday, and marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, and the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

As we know from the Gospels, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day following his crucifixion, Sunday. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over Evil, Sin and death.

Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to humankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar. In the Gospels, the precise details of the Easter narrative vary slightly.

We encourage you to read all four Easter accounts:

Matthew 28, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24, and John 20-21.

What stands out to you?



A Prayer for Easter Sunday

Lord God,
You loved this world so much,
That you gave your one and only Son,
That we might be called your children too.
Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace

Of Easter Sunday, everyday.

Let us have hearts of thankfulness
For your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that look upon
Your grace and rejoice in our salvation.

Help us to walk in that mighty grace
And tell your good news to the world.

All for your glory do we pray, Lord,
Amen

~ Rachel Marie Stone



Knitting Group

With Marcia Kuska

The Knitting Group meets on the first and third Tuesday each month from 12 Noon until 2PM in my home. You do not have to knit (or crochet) to join us and are welcome to come for fellowship and a cup of coffee. Some of us knit, crochet, needlepoint, embroider and mend.

In the past we have made scarves and prayer shawls. We have a few of these items completed and would welcome suggestions if you know of someone you would like to give one to. Just let us know. If you have any questions or want directions

you can call me,
Marcia Kuska
 @ (575) 751-4855.

Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women will meet March 9th at noon with our Spring team in charge. Since March is the month to "Celebrate the Gifts of Women", our program will be on the influence of the early mission school teachers in northern New Mexico.

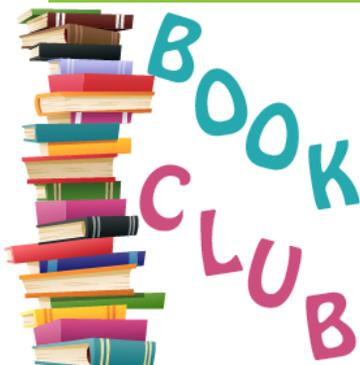
Women's Bible Study, *Who is Jesus?*, continues with lesson seven, March 28th 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Our discussions can be very lively, pertinent and informative and always fun. You all have a special invitation to join us.

Our April 13th meeting also at noon, will be a celebration and dedication of our Birthday Offering, ten cents for each year of your life. This is one of the two offerings sponsored by PC(USA) used to expand mission work with new and creative projects around the world.

Last year we had such a fun time doing a Worship Service that we ask to do it again. We are planning a service for the Sunday after Easter, April 23rd. Stay tuned for more!

We urge all women to join us for these activities.

Margaret Mactavish,
 PW Moderator



Monthly Book Club

Readers Wanted!

Please join our monthly book club group. Interesting discussion, nice folks and good food. Meetings!

March 2nd 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

April 6th 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Book for March: *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance

Book for April: *The Lost Days of Night* by Graham Moore

Location: Back building meeting room (Lounge)

Adult Sunday School

9:30 AM Sundays

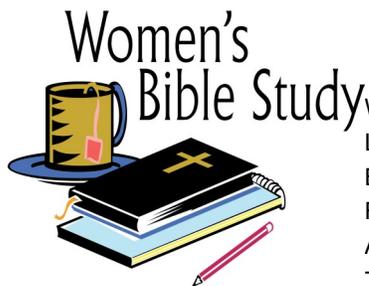
We are reading *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis, which contains 31 letters to his nephew Wormwood, who is Screwtape's underlining in fiendishness.

Join us in a lively discussion about sin and practical everyday matters. For more information, contact John Abeln (575) 758-0613
 Location: Back building meeting room (Lounge)



Women's Bible Study

Meeting Tuesday, March 28 at 10:00 AM in the lounge



Who Is Jesus?: What a Difference a Lens Makes

Lesson 7 "According to the Non-canonical Gospels", will be discussed

Background scripture will come from Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2.

Reading the lesson in the book will also be helpful to our discussion.

All interested women are welcome to join us.

This month we'll look at gospels that didn't make "the cut". Our study is about knowing Jesus, not just knowing Jesus according to the New Testament. It was an arduous process, deciding which books would be included as our authoritative books of the New Testament (canonization), but, beyond those selected, many other stories about Jesus also circulated in the early centuries of Christianity, offering stories of the "missing years" of Jesus and, more importantly, information about the diversity of early Christianity.





Men's Breakfast
1st Thursday of Each Month
El Taoseño Restaurant 7:30 AM



Session Meeting
Every 3rd Tuesday of Each Month
5 PM Lounge



Presbyterian Women
Lunch/Dinner
2nd Thursday of Each Month



Deacon's Meeting
2nd Sunday of Each Month
12:15 PM Lounge



Worship Committee
1st Wednesday of Each Month
4 PM Coffee Room



Communion Service
1st Sunday of Each Month
11 AM Service



Property Committee
3rd Thursday of Each Month
9:30 AM Lounge

The Shared Table

The Shared Table began in 1994 as an outreach ministry of El Pueblito United Methodist Church. Several years ago we partnered with First Presbyterian and Ranchos Presbyterian Churches in an ecumenical effort to reach more people. We distribute food commodities, basic health-care items, school supplies, and other essentials twice a month, all year long -- on the

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of Each Month.
11:00 AM- 12 noon
in El Prado at El Pueblito Methodist Church
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Ranchos Presbyterian Church.

So, we reach folks in need on both ends of town on the same day.

A unique quotation is at the heart of our program - it was written down by Steve when he spoke to some 4th grade students years ago. A 4th grade girl spoke up & said, "I like the Shared Table, because you might not think you need anything, but you just might." Her words speak to what we all try to do together!

Steve.

Children on Communion Sunday



"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.'" -Mark 10:14

As you may have noticed, we are trying something new for our youngest worshippers on Communion Sunday (the first Sunday of the month). Since our Sunday school teachers take a well-deserved week off on Communion Sundays, we've set up some tables with books, toys, and art supplies in the coffee room next door to the sanctuary. Children are invited to sit at these tables and worship however they wish; after all, who's to say that coloring and playing (quietly) aren't beautiful forms of worship? Children area also welcome to come forward and receive the Sacrament of Communion in the service.



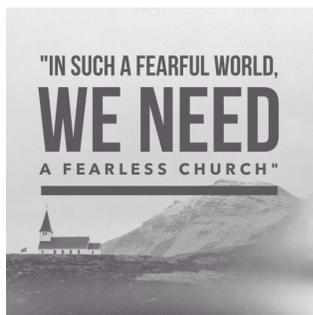
Service of Installation

We are excited to announced that we will hold a Service of Installation for Rev. Virginia Bairby the afternoon of Sunday March 26th at 5 PM. The Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin will be preaching. All are welcome to come and celebrate with us.

Vacation Bible School come to First Presbyterian!

San Antonio Presbyterian Church is coming to our church to conduct a Vacation Bible School. The group will arrive on the evening of Sunday, June 18th and Bible School begins the next morning. They will be providing the curriculum, leaders, and materials. The group is staying at Camp Loma Verde for the week. Several in the group will be also doing repairs at the Camp. There will be many ways in which you can volunteer to assist in making this community outreach successful. For more information please call Patsy Wright 758-4648.

What an exciting time for our church family!



A Service for a Broken and Fearful World

This week, during our regular at 11 AM worship time, we will have a special Lenten Service for a Broken and Fearful World. During this season of Lent, we acknowledge the pain and brokenness in ourselves and our world. We invite you to worship with us in a participatory, multi-sensory service of art, music, preaching, and prayer as we together lift up our brokenness to God, our source of strength, healing and wholeness. All ages welcome – children are encouraged to participate!

Earth Day April 22, 2017

*The earth is the LORD'S and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.
Psalm 24:1*



Care for God's Creatures

Furry, feathered, finned, four-legged, and winged, the diversity of God's creatures inspires wonder and awe. From Noah's Ark, to barn animals surrounding baby Jesus, to Isaiah's vision of the lion dwelling with the lamb, God's creatures play an important role in the Bible. In the psalms, creatures give praise to God, having their own relationship with God separate from humanity. Thus, knowing and loving God's creatures helps us better know our Creator. While Genesis 2:1-15 calls humans to till and keep creation, Genesis 1 calls us to also marvel at and love all creatures.¹ The seven days of creation narrative does not inspire a spirit of superiority, a distance, of domination, or of exploitation. The seven days narrative calls us to love as God loves. Non-human creatures enrich our human vocation, teach us about God, and companion us on life's journeys. We give thanks for all God's creatures and devote ourselves to better care of, and relationship with, these creatures.



*How great are Your works, O God! You made them all with wisdom, the earth is full of Your creatures
Psalms 104:24*





March

April

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 4th - Emelina Carreño | 1st - Lyn Coupland |
| 6th - David Doolittle | 3rd - Jana Ebeling |
| 7th - Yolanda Padilla
Linda Gaza | 5th - Craig Simmons |
| 19th - Charlene Tamayo | 9th - Don Williams |
| 23rd - Robbie Cargill
Prudence Abeln | 15th - Kathy Jones |
| 24th - Dana Lesnett | 18th - Ted DiPadova |
| 27th - Ada Randall | 19th - Dan Lizdas |
| 29th - Rev. John Snider | 21st - Marcia Kuska
Andres Vigil |



Rev. John Snider, Jane & Hank Archuleta, Dulcie Romero,
Gloria Mondragon, Don Bailey, Bill Harrison, David Boles, Dana Lesnett,
Stephen Daniels, Virginia Laughlin and Eloi Mossman (stroke), Robbie Cargill & Family.

*To add/remove a loved one from the prayer list, contact the
Church office at 758-3124.
To place a name on the prayer chain, contact JoAnn Ortiz at
(575) 741-1191 joannortiz2002@yahoo.com.*





CHURCH CALENDAR

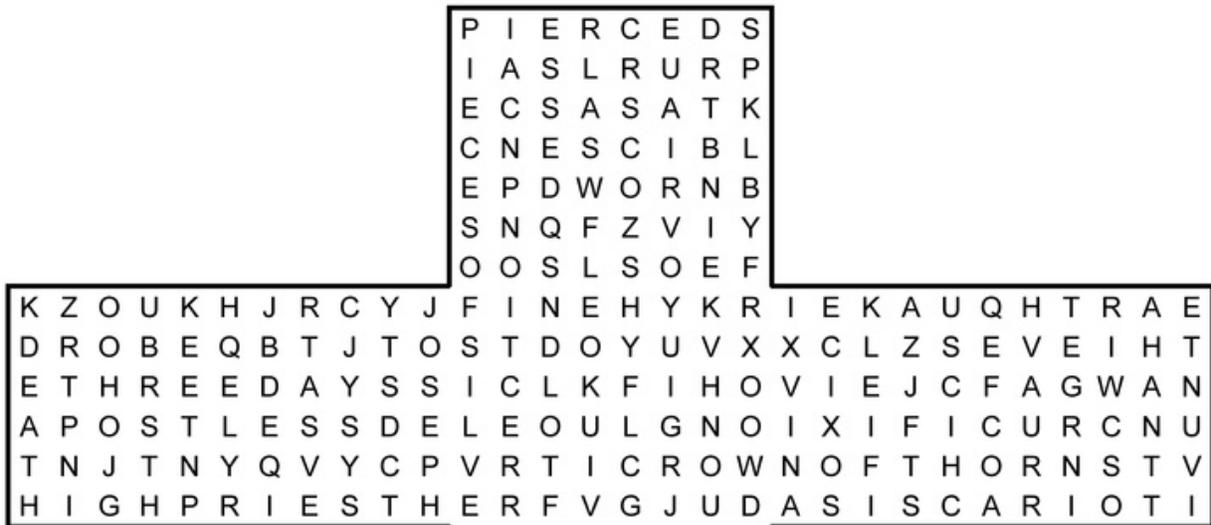


Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

			1 Ash Wednesday Worship Committee 4PM Coffee Room	2 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM El Taoseño Book Club 5:30PM Potluck Back Building	3 World Day of Prayer	4
5 First Sunday in Lent Communion Service	6	7 Knitting Group 12-2 PM Marcia K Home	8 International Women's Day Shared Table 2-3 PM Ranchos Church	9 Presbyterian Women 12 noon Back Building	10	11
12 2nd Sunday in Lent Deacon's Meeting 12:15 PM Lounge Daylight Savings Time	13	14	15	16 Property Committee 9:30 AM Lounge	17	18
19 3rd Sunday in Lent Service for a Broken and Fearful World 11:00 AM	20	21 Knitting Group 12-2 PM Marcia K Home	22 Shared Table 2-3 PM Ranchos Church	23 Men's Homeless Shelter Meal	24	25
26 4th Sunday in Lent Installation of Service for Rev. Ginna Bairby 5 PM	27	28 PW Bible Study 10 AM Lounge	29	30	31	



Easter Word Search



ANGELS
 APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 BLOOD
 CALVARY
 CROSS
 CROWN OF THORNS
 CRUCIFIXION
 DARKNESS
 DEATH
 EARTHQUAKE
 EASTER
 GOLGOTHA
 HIGH PRIEST
 JESUS CHRIST
 JOSEPH
 JUDAS ISCARIOT
 KING
 LAMB

MARY
 NAILS
 PASSOVER
 PIECES OF SILVER
 PIERCED
 PILATE
 RESURRECTION
 ROBE
 ROMANS
 SACRIFICE
 SIMON OF CYRENE
 SOLDIERS
 SON OF GOD
 SPEAR
 STONE
 TEMPLE
 THIEVES
 THREE DAYS
 TOMB

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First Presbyterian Church of Taos

March - April 2017 Newsletter



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Tuesday through Thursday

From 10AM to 3PM

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