



Presbytidings - August 2025

An Outreach of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Transitional Pastor

Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke
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Office Hours by Appointment

Administrative Asst.

Birgitta Gustafson
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Church Office Hours

Tuesday – Thursday
8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Phone/Fax

Phone 505-881-9626
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New and Events

From your Transitional Pastor

PNC News

Climate Crisis Report

Bill's Story

Higher Education Forum

Governor Bent Food Drive

PW News

Birthdays/ Lectionary

Calendar

Dear St. Andrew family,

As many of you know, and perhaps some of you are not aware, continuing education is an important part of the lifelong formation of Presbyterian pastors. So much so, that our Presbytery (and every other presbytery I have ever been a part of) requires at least 2 weeks of Continuing Education to be written into any terms of call or contract. This provides an opportunity for growth and to bring back to their congregation ideas and new skills, along with renewal and refreshment.

This August, I am so excited to be heading to CAMP: A Planning Retreat for Clergy. This camp is designed to share ideas with other clergy, learn from leaders, be inspired by natural beauty, and be refreshed to plan worship. Incidentally, last year I read a book titled Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages by Marcia McFee, and whether you realize it or not, many of the adjustments that have been made to the worship services here at St. Andrew have been inspired by this book, and the author Marcia McFee will be one of the speakers at this event!

This year CAMP takes place in Alta, Wyoming in the backyard of the Grand Tetons, and includes a pre-trip outing to Yellowstone National Park. I look forward to learning more about, and supporting, our national parks as well.

I will be gone from August 14th to August 22nd. I know that our deacons will do an amazing job of pastoral care (as they always do) should a need arise, and on August 17th Bob Busch will be preaching!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Eric

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

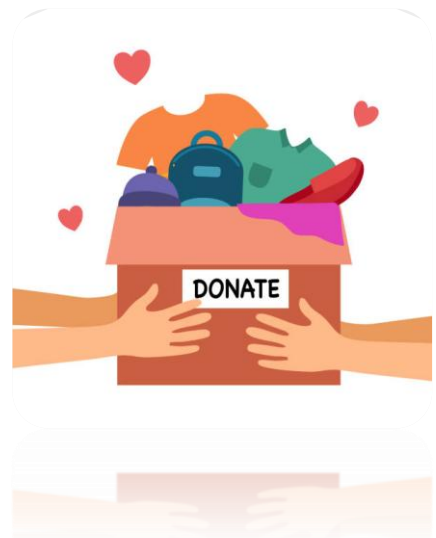
Your Pastor Nominating Committee is Working for You

The PNC has been busy this summer. Our team continues to meet during the summer months on Monday afternoons. Once we submitted our Minister Discernment Profile (MDP), we were matched on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) with a batch of potential candidates. We have also received several self-referrals. With those, we have been holding Zoom “conversations.”

Our next steps include finalizing our in-depth interview questions in which we will address the topics of theology, ministry, leadership, spiritual life, personal qualities, vision, and planning. From there we will schedule interviews with the candidates we have already had a conversation with. We will also continue to evaluate Pastor Discernment Profiles (PDPs) that we receive from the CLC.

The PNC is a team of amazing members of our church. Be sure to thank them for their dedication to St. Andrew PC. It is my honor to serve with them. – Kathy Renfro

Every Sunday after a delicious meal, our Neighborhood Friends can get hygiene packets and gently used clothing and shoes. We are especially in need of men’s summer clothing. We welcome women’s summer clothing as well. Check your closet for those clothes you no longer use. We especially need t-shirts and jeans. We do not need dressy clothing nor pajamas. No winter clothing at this time, as our storage is limited. New underwear and sox are always welcome. Need me to pick up your donations? Call Sharon Craig.



Higher Education Forum

Saturday, August 16, 3:00-4:30

The Attack on Higher Education

The Trump administration's policies and actions have been described widely as an "attack" or "war" on higher education, aiming to reshape the role of the federal government in the sector and exert ideological control. Critics and analysts argue these actions destabilize financial aid, undermine research, and chill free expression on campuses. As the leader of this war told *The New York Times* earlier this year, "A medium- or long-term goal of mine is to figure out how to adjust the formula of finances from the federal government to the universities in a way that puts them in an existential terror."

He has, indeed, succeeded, and succeeded very quickly. This forum will bring together experts to discuss *why* this is happening, *how* it is happening, and the *implications* for higher education in the future. UNM representatives will talk about the effects locally while researchers from George Mason University will focus on Florida and Virginia, key states at the epicenter for this movement.

CLIMATE CRISIS REPORT

by Bill Renfro

Wednesday, July 23, 2025, a report on the Rio Grande indicated that for the second time in forty years the Rio Grande is completely dry south of the I-40 bridge in Albuquerque! We are still in a megadrought (more than 20 consecutive years of drought). And the problem is exacerbated by the increase of our debt of acre-feet owed Texas. Richard Stoops confirmed the total dryness of the river by personally walking across it without encountering any water. The Rio Grande begins flowing further south when treated water from the Albuquerque treatment plants is returned to the river. This is another indication of our climate crisis which is a result of our industrial revolution overreach and our failure to overcome humanity's role in creating the processes that contribute to global warming. Many scientists indicate that we are on the verge of moving toward the sixth mass extinction and are reaching the point of no return. We must continue to work hard to convince the leaders and people of the world to take critical steps to stem the worsening of the crisis. Live for all of sacred life on this sacred planet!

BILL'S STORY

“Whoever puts their hand to the plow and looks back. . . .” Luke 9:62

By Bill Renfro

When I was 12, 13, or 14, my family drove to Socorro, NM, to visit my great uncle, Bert, and his family. Uncle Bert was a small farmer with some land in the Rio Grande Valley just out of Socorro. My uncle enjoyed teaching me about farming, raising a small herd of cattle, and becoming a part of sacred Earth. He even held his own personal rodeo with me as the star yearling calf-rider as long as I could stay on.

During this particular visit Uncle Bert decided that he would allow me to drive the tractor to cut the weeds in his field of maize. The plow unit stretched out on both sides to allow the blades to plow between three rows of maize on each side with the row in the center being common to the left and right. I was told that, while I drove the tractor, it was essential to keep the radiator cap on the middle row at all times. Because of Uncle Bert, I learned a most important lesson of life! The radiator cap was my direction as I moved into the future. It kept me on the path. Taking my eye off the radiator cap and looking where I had been would have been disastrous. I would have immediately begun traveling off line which would mean that the blades would be cutting the healthy maize and chaos would occur which would make it difficult to regain my future direction.

I am so grateful to Uncle Bert for trusting a young teenager to drive the tractor and keep it straight while cutting the weeds between the rows of maize. By his trust in me, he built my confidence in myself and taught me that living in the past brings chaos. Traveling into the future takes confidence, concentration, direction, courage, hope, and expectancy. Keep the radiator cap on the center row of the maize and follow it into the unknown future with certainty.



GOVERNOR BENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

Governor Bent students will be returning to school in August and we will again be distributing weekend food bags to students. Please support this mission by helping us create a **'Mountain of Food'**. You may bring your donation on Sunday mornings (the first Sunday would be great so the 'mountain' is visible under the Communion Table) or any time during the week and leave it in the box labeled for Governor Bent. Please bring the following food items for the foodbags:

- Drinks: hot chocolate, juice boxes, small bottles of water
- Breakfast: breakfast bars, cold cereal, oatmeal
- Lunch/Dinner: chicken, mac & cheese boxes, mac & cheese individual servings, ramen noodles, ravioli, spaghetti cans, rice and pasta envelopes, soup large, soup small, tuna can, tuna pouch, vienna sausages
- Fruit: applesauce fruit cups
- Snacks: cookies, fruit rolls, fruit snacks, individual goldfish, graham crackers, granola bars, peanut butter bars, peanut butter individual cups, popcorn, pudding, ritz crackers, saltines, snack crackers.

Thank you!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Please plan on joining Presbyterian Women for their new bible study entitled: **Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ**. Our first meeting will be September 9, at 10:00 am in the church adult CE room. Study Books are available to be purchased from Linda Barnes for \$16. PW usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month but due to the Labor Day holiday, in September we will meet on the 2nd Tuesday. Rev. Catherine Robinson will continue to facilitate our discussions of the Study and Chapter One will be our first lesson. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there!



Lectionary Schedule

Sunday – August 3

8th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Hosea 11:1-11

Psalm 107:1-9, 43

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-11

Gospel Luke 12:13-21

Sunday – August 10

9th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Gospel Luke 12:32-40

Sunday – August 17

10th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 108:1-2, 8-19

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Gospel Luke 12:49-56

Sunday – August 24

11th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18-29

Gospel Luke 13:10-17

Sunday – August 31

12th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Gospel Luke 14:1, 7-14

PURSUE WHAT MAKES FOR PEACE.

PASTOR ERIC ON STUDY LEAVE

**Pastor Eric will be on a
study leave, August 14 –
22.**



August Birthdays

4	C.C. Sandoval
10	Therese Smith
13	Marta Light
18	Marcos Griego
20	Bennie James Montoya
25	Jake Spidle
	Chuck Evans
27	Amy Gorman
29	James Wise
31	Christine Sierra





AUGUST 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:30 Girl Scouts	2
3 9:30 Worship & Communion 10:30 Fellowship 3 pm Encantada	4 4:30 PNC	5 12 pm Lectionary Lunch	6	7 10 am Stroke Club 10 am Spiritual Formation 5 pm Worship Com on ZOOM APS FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	8 7:30 Sci Fi Society	9
10 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 3 pm Encantada	11 4:30 PNC	12 12 pm Lectionary Lunch 5:15 Mission Social Justice Com	13 4 pm Deacons	14 8 am Finance Com on ZOOM 10 am Stoke Club 10 am Historical Jesus PASTOR ERIC ON STUDY LEAVE (until 8/22)	15 2 pm Outreach Com 5:30 Girl Scouts 7:30 Sci Fi Society	16 3 pm Community Forum on Higher Ed
17 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 3 pm Encantada	18 4:30 PNC 7 pm APO rehearsals resume	19	20	21 10 am Stroke Club 10 am Spiritual Formation	22	23
24 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 3 pm Encantada 31 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 3 pm Encantada	25 4:30 PNC 7 pm APO rehearsal	26	27	28 10 am Stroke Club 10 am Historical Jesus	29	30