

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

740 W. University Heights Dr. South
Flagstaff, AZ 86005

Sunday Worship

9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School for Children & Youth

10:45 AM

Nursery Provided at the 2nd Service

Church Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Friday: 7:30 am—11:30 am

Email:

admin@cor-pca.org

Website:

www.cor-pca.org



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Church of the RESURRECTION

“Where People Come Alive!”

HOW TO HAVE THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER!

Let's go to the heart of the matter. The coming of the divine Christ into the world is an incredibly important historical event; it happened in Palestine two thousand years ago. That is astoundingly good news, but the better news is that the same Christ seeks to enter the hearts of each of us today. Jesus' birth, therefore, is history - but it is also a parable, written in history about how God still seeks to enter the human heart. Our amazing God can be revealed both in history and in our souls. In his hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," Phillips Brooks said it well:

*How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear can hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.*

What are some of the other ways which God might use to bring you the best Christmas ever? Here are some...try them on and see if they fit!

First, **Step into the Story!** The Christmas narratives are found in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2. Read. Meditate. And step into the stories becoming a shepherd or a wise man. Make your personal pilgrimage to the manger of the Christ Child this Christmas.

Second, **Let God put a Song in Your Heart!** Are you a singer? Or not? It doesn't matter...singing is about joy. God is the source of authentic joy. Joy is His gift. Receive it. Do you hear the angels singing? Sing with them. The joy of their chorus will drown out your errant notes and you'll be caught up in the chorus of the ages.

Third, **Spend More Time Praying than Shopping!** Shopping will exhaust you, but praying will energize you. Try several of our Daily Praise & Prayer times...it will restore your soul.

Fourth, **Listen to the Sounds of Silence!** Sit before a single, lighted candle and meditate on "I am the Light of the World." (John 8:12) And become the light of your world (Matthew 5:14-16).

Fifth, **Don't Frenzy into Buying and Giving Gifts, but Gracefully Become a Gift.** Spending time and meaningful conversation with friends may be their best gift of the season. Give yourself away.

Sixth, **Incaruate His Love.** The meaning of "incarnation" is found in John 1:14 which reads, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth." You could take your turn volunteering at the Flagstaff Family Food Center feeding the hungry or maybe ringing the bell at the Salvation Army red kettle. You could bring food or volunteer at "The Pantry." You could sing carols at the jail (December 12). You could help host the homeless at our church (December 9-15). If you do, welcome the stranger as if he or she was Christ himself (Galatians 4:14).

And seventh, **Let Christmas Happen in Your Heart...Keeping Christmas All the Year!** I love the story of Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. His heart was greedy, mean, and dark, but the spirits of Christmas past, present, and future gave him God's perspective and he was gloriously transformed into a heart which was giddy and generous...blessing all who crossed his path. Truly, it was his best Christmas ever!



Navajo Christmas Celebration Mission

December 1, 2018

This will be FaithWorks' 12th time to celebrate the Christmas Season with our Navajo friends in Leupp Arizona. The purpose of FaithWorks is to radiate the love of Jesus Christ, our wonderful Savior and Lord, while serving Him with gladness.

For more information contact the FaithWorks Office (928) 774-0504, or the Trip Coordinator Jan Allen (928) 567-0092

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Coming in January to COR

Chuck Thomsen will be coordinating another Financial Peace University course starting on Monday, January 21, 2019 at 6:30 PM. The course will last 9 weeks ending on March 18, 2019 in the Fellowship Hall. The course includes setting up a budget, paying off debt, saving for retirement and children's college, paying off home and giving.

You can register at <https://fpu.com/1077445> or after the first class. The first class is free to attend. If you have taken the course before you are welcome to attend the course again or makeup the weeks you have missed. Questions? Contact Chuck at (928) 699-6011 or fpuatcor@gmail.com.

Meet Your Staff



Bob Norton
Pastor
928-699-7592



Patty Gross
Worship Leader
928-225-9889



Greg Reiff
**Director of
Youth Ministry**
928-600-9395



Brigitte Bradley
**Administrative
Assistant**
928-699-2715

**Messages for
ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE**
*"Lift Up Your Heads! The King
of Glory is Here!"*

Psalm 3:3-4

In these challenging times we experience political strife, violence in mass shootings, devastating wildfires, and general uncivility which darkens our drooping hearts. But God has good news for us... "But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy mountain." (Psalm 3:3-4). This gem from the Psalter will guide our Advent & Christmastide preaching themes. Be sure and invite your unchurched friends and neighbors. These positive, faith-filled messages will lift their heads to His glory!

Sunday, December 2nd - *"Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come!"* Isaiah 60:1-5
Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Sunday, December 9th - *"Humble & Exalted"*
(the Holy Family)
Celebration of Patty Gross' Ministry
(after 10:45 service)

Sunday, December 16th - *"Shepherds, Arise!"*
Luke 2:8-20
Prayers for Healing & Wholeness

Sunday, December 23rd - *"Let Joy Arise!"*
Let's Sing with the Angels

Monday, December 24th 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
"The Christmas Miracle" John 1:1-18
A Service of Lessons and Carols



Sunday, December 30th - *"Wise Men Still Seek Him"* Matthew 2:1-12
Baptisms and Reception of New Members



**Come and Celebrate the
Ministry in Music of
Patty Gross...retiring
after eleven years as our
Worship Leader**

**Sunday, December 9th, after the
10:45 worship service**

Let's gather in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Patty Gross and her eleven inspirational years as our Worship Leader. Truly, Patty has put a song in our hearts and we are grateful. We'll share good things to eat. We'll fill a holiday tree with monetary gifts to bless Patty and Butch through the holiday season and into the new year. Bring your bills to attach to the tree. Bring your greeting cards to share your heart for Patty and her contribution to our lives and our church. Be generous with your love. Bless Patty and Butch with an outpouring of love and gratitude!

**Hosting the Homeless
December 9-15**

We will be partnering once again with Flagstaff Shelter Services to provide essential housing for their Overflow Program. Starting Sunday evening, December 9th we will welcome 15-20 men and women to the warm and safe environment of our Fellowship Hall. Volunteers can greatly help through providing breakfasts, and gathering in the evening to provide food and fellowship. Each homeless person has their own unique story. Many are people of faith. One can listen, care, and encourage. Snacks are welcome in the evening hours. Would you like to help? Sign up on the ministry board in the Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office at (928) 699-2715.

"The Pantry" Needs Your Help

Remember, "Chili Month" and "PB & J Month"? You've done a great job! Thank you so much. December also is a critical month. Holiday foods are needed as are volunteers. Donations to help with grandparents helping visiting grandchildren from Phoenix. For more information, contact Sandy Berry at (831) 239-4311.

DAILY PRAISE & PRAYER

Morning Gathering at 7:00 a.m.

Midday P & P at 11:30 a.m.

Evening P & P at 5:30 p.m.

"The church needs to be open more for the people to come and pray." We are trying to accommodate this need. We're going to be opening our "House of Prayer" for people to come by and spend time gaining solace and restoring peace in a busy season. For more information, contact the Church Office at (928) 699-2715.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

in the Coconino County Jail

*"Would you like to sing the joyous songs of
Christmas with those incarcerated?"*

Wednesday, December 12th

We are gathering a group of twelve carolers to spend the evening of December 12th at the CC Jail. We need to have names and birthdates of participants a full week (December 2nd) before the event to do security clearances. Would you like to help? We sing with the inmates, take prayer requests, share testimonies, pass out hot chocolate and cookies, and bring a little Christmas warmth to those separated from their families at this sacred and beautiful time of the year. Come join us! Bring your voice and your smile and touch the hearts of 120-150 inmates. For more information, contact Pastor Bob at (928) 699-7592.

A Holy Season

ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE

The Beginning of the Christian Year

Advent (the four Sundays before Christmas) and **Christmastide** are seasons of preparation and a time for new beginnings. Have you been nursing a grudge against a Christian brother or sister? This season is a time for warmed hearts and reconciled relationships. It's been too long. Let go of the hurts and the heartaches. Don't take them into a new year. Let go. Receive the peace God will give.

These sacred seasons are a time for Coming Home. Coming home to God and His Church. *If God is our Father then the Church must be our mother* (Origen). Come and be healed and enter

into the joy of your Master. We are opening the Church (The Lord's House of Prayer) for times of personal reflection and humble prayer. Come and meet with God in the silence of your own heart and in the warmth of His house of prayer.

Let this Christmas become a season of peace and restoration instead of a season of frenzy and busy. *"Come to me and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28-30)



WHAT IS A DEACON?

By: Mike Bradley, Ruling Elder

There are only two ordained offices within the Presbyterian Church of America. They are Elders (Teaching and Ruling) and Deacons. Deacons essentially serve as assistants to the Elders. They are usually called to minister to the sick and needy, to maintain the church real property, and to assist the Elders in other functions where needed. Although they are not required to have the gift of teaching, many do. In addition, it is common for Deacons to serve in a special area where they are gifted. Although they are not voting members of the Session, they meet with the Session on occasion to report on church needs and receive assignments.

We currently have three Deacon Candidates who are undergoing training, examination, and internship. They are Randy Messerschmitt, Chuck Tompsen and Brian Skowronski. We meet weekly at our home where they receive formal training, complete assignments as directed, and of course spend time in prayer. If at the end of six months (March 2019) these men and the Session feel that they are being called by Christ to serve, they will come before the congregation for election. Their ordination ceremony will follow shortly thereafter.

Please pray for these men as they go through this intensive process to serve Christ and our church at even a higher level. May His face shine upon them!