

**This Week's Prayer Focus:** Liberal

**Week of:** January 20, 2019

**Location:** First Presbyterian Church, Liberal

**Mission Focus:** First Presbyterian Church of Liberal was the first church in the community, founded in July of 1888, only 3 months after the town of Liberal was established. The congregation shared its building with other congregations as they were formed and organized. This church has continually reached out to the Liberal community for 130 years! In summer of 2013, when the congregation became aware of the need for more preschool/daycare facilities, the congregation started a community preschool/

daycare on the church campus to help meet the huge demand for quality preschool/daycare for the children. Other churches in the community, as well as individuals, made donations of funds, materials, and labor to contribute to this ambitious project. The members continue to focus on reaching out to the large Latino community (about 75% of the population), and people from all other cultures in the town as Liberal has a significant number of refugees from Somalia and other African countries, by trying to develop ministries which will be appropriate for and welcome people from the various cultures. The church shared its facility with a Latino Church, Puerto Del Cielo, for worship on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, and now this congregation meets in its own building.

After much hard work and with God's grace and for grants from the Presbyterian Women Thank Offering, PSK and Rundell Foundation, the preschool/daycare is moving in positive directions. It continues to apply for grants and would appreciate your prayers.

The church enjoys partnering with community groups, to serve the people in a diversity of settings in the community! The church's Deacon's Fund is a very important ministry in the community, which provides utility and other forms of financial assistance to anyone in need within the community. One-half of the church's loose offering received goes to support the Deacon's Fund, and this year the fund helped numerous people in the community. The congregation is a group of very caring, devoted and faithful people and they hope and pray that this church will find 'a way out of no way', as Calvin said, continuing its rich history of dedicated ministry and being 'a light across the prairie', forever!

**Prayer Request:** Please pray for growth in openness and appreciation of people from diverse cultures and all backgrounds, in the church and town and more outreach to families from all groups in the community, as the church focuses on living out Jesus' calling to us in Matthew 25:31-46, which is to offer 'a cup of free water', like S.S. Rogers, the founder of Liberal, to anyone in need, both spiritually and physically. Continue to pray for us as we continue forward without a pastor as Pastor Kitty returned to California.

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