

HELLO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF FUPC!

In this mailing you'll find a note from Pastor Katie and the bulletin for Sunday's worship service.

As we prepare for our first Sunday of online worship (watch your email and the church's Facebook page for details), I'd ask that you have your wallet handy when you tune in. We'll be doing a little exercise that involves checking out the contents of your wallet. You might also want to have a pen and paper handy.



First United Presbyterian Church
1000 Douglas Avenue
PO Box 37
Las Vegas NM 87701



March 17, 2020

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

As I write this, it's a very quiet St. Patrick's Day. No news of parades in the big cities; they've all been cancelled. None of the usual Robertson High School traffic outside my window at the end of the school day because school has been cancelled. Not much traffic noise at all as most people seem to be doing their best to observe the social distancing requested by our state leaders in response to the COVID-19 threat. I know that, for some of us, this distancing is harder than for others. I've seen Facebook posts recently that say it's an introvert's dream and an extrovert's nightmare. I hope all of us can remember that as we think of friends and family; let's reach out to each other, especially to those extroverts who might be having trouble with this isolation!

As for our practice of social distancing, I think it's helpful to think of this time not just as a big inconvenience or as a time when we can't get together and have fun, or as a time when we're stuck at home with nothing to do. Let's remember those who aren't able to be at home because they still have jobs to do—jobs that the rest of us are relying on. Let's remember those for whom it is a hardship to be home. And let's entertain the notion of thinking about this Pandemic as a spiritual opportunity, as so beautifully expressed in the poem below by Rev. Lynn Unger.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

Pandemic

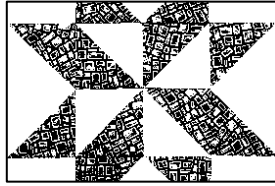
What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)

Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move,
invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love--
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

--Rev. Lynn Ungar, 3/11/2020



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

March 22, 2020 10:30 a.m.

FLAWED SERVANTS

MEDITATION – *Do not judge by appearances. A rich heart may be under a poor coat.* –Scottish Proverb

WE GATHER TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us make a commitment during this time to call a church family member today, visit with them, and wish them the peace of Christ.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 89:1-2)

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
We know that God is with us, though we are unable to be together in the sanctuary. Let's praise the God of Steadfast Love!

OPENING HYMN - We Are the Church (Avery & Marsh)

Be an armchair chorister! Words to the refrain:

I am the church; you are the church; we are the church together.

All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the church together!

OPENING PRAYER

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Mark 12:38-44

As he taught, [Jesus] said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

SERMON: *Now Appearing!* Rev. Katie Palmer

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

In response to the Word today, count the cash you have in your wallet right now. Imagine finding yourself in an unfamiliar city with only that cash—no credit cards, no phone. How visible would you be to those around you? What would you do with that cash? Spend some time making a list of the people you don't see or hear around you and those who are getting by on what little they have. Commit to praying for them and, if you're able, donating to an agency that can help them.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OUR OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***CLOSING HYMN - Jesus Calls Us**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE



We extend a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today.

Lent Sunday Class - The Sunday Morning Class will discuss the novel *Saint Maybe* by Anne Tyler via email. For March 29, please read Chapter 8 ("I Should Never Tell You Anything") and Chapter 9 ("The Flooded Sewing Box").

A Lenten Prayer for an End to Hunger from Bread for the World: *O God, for those who follow Jesus, all things are possible. We pray that our nation's leaders may not close their eyes and hearts to those in need but rather change the policies and conditions that allow hunger to persist. Amen.*

Samaritan House Food Donations – March – Canned meats, tuna, chicken.

Samaritan House is in need of lunch bags and "to-go" containers as meals are now pick-up only. They also need bottled water and lunch meats. These items should be delivered directly to Samaritan House. Please call them before delivering – 454-1390.

Sign up for the **2020 All Church Ghost Ranch Retreat**. \$50 deposit. Call Judy Long (505-429-0379) or Lisa Weinstein (912-257-2737) if you have questions.

Prayers for the Church Family - Please pray for Pam Abreu, Susan Apodaca, and John Arnold & Bernadette Lujan as well as First Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque NM (1880). These names remind us to pray for each other and for those in our Presbytery.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Tuesday, March 24

6:30 p.m. – Session Meeting via Go-to-Meeting

Instructions will be sent to Session members

Assisting in Worship Today

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer

Accompanist – Em Krall

Stream Team – Carol Linder, D. R. Palmer, Jeff Salman

March Elder of the Month – Tom Trigg – 505-426-5821

March Deacon of the Month – Sharon Vander Meer – 505-617-0839

Church Office closed to the public, but calls and emails will be answered.

Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

505-425-7763

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