HELLO FUPC FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

In this mailing you'll find the bulletin for Sunday's worship service. Join us Sunday at 10:30 via zoom by going to https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081, or by phone (312-626-6799). If you're joining by phone, enter meeting ID 573-920-0081. If you've not used zoom before, follow the instructions provided at the link.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 15

8:45 a.m. – Adult class in Session Room and via Zoom 10:30 a.m. –Worship in sanctuary and via Zoom followed by the 2025 Church Budget Meeting in Perea Hall, all are invited

Monday, December 16

7:00 a.m. – AA in upstairs classroom

Tuesday, December 17

11:45 a.m. – Rotary Meeting in Perea Hall 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Massage Therapist in Nursery Room 6:00 p.m. – Women's AA Meeting in The Gathering Place

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 a.m. – AA meeting in upstairs classroom 9:00 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship at Charlie's 6:00 p.m. – Al Anon meeting in The Gathering Place

Friday, December 19

7:00 a.m. – AA meeting in upstairs classroom 4:00 p.m. - Samaritan House Cook Team

Saturday, December 20

9:00 a.m. – AA meeting in upstairs classroom

Sunday, December 21

8:45 a.m. – Adult Study in Session Room and via Zoom 10:30 a.m. –Worship in sanctuary and via Zoom

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







FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, P.O. Box 37 Las Vegas, NM 87701 December 15, 2024 10:30 a.m.

MISSION AND VISION - We seek to grow in our faith, share God's love, and serve others, following the Holy Spirit that has sustained us and our ministries for over 150 years. As an inclusive and welcoming segment of the Body of Christ, we actively seek justice for all and work together to build a compassionate world where all are valued. Led by Christ and dependent on God's grace, we embrace today's challenges and live into tomorrow's opportunities.

MEDITATION "...'joy' in Philippians is a defiant 'Nevertheless!' that Paul sets like a full stop against the Philippians' anxiety..." — Karl Barth

WE GATHER TOGETHER

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us make a commitment during this time to visit with someone today and wish them the peace of Christ.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

THE RITUAL OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A WORD ON JOY LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY UNISON PRAYER: Rev. Patricia Halverson Murl Baker

"Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth, join angels in dancing from heaven to earth. Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise. One candle is lit for the joy of these days."

CHORAL INTROIT Hurry Shepherds, Run Douglas Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Philippians 4)

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice.

All: Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

Leader: The Lord is at hand.

All: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

*OPENING HYMN People Look East GTG #105

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

We remember that, **before** we confess and no matter what we confess to God, we can be assured of God's Love and Mercy.

UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Gracious God, we confess that we fall short. We have failed to love mercy, we have failed to walk humbly, we have failed to act justly and selflessly. But You, Jesus, remain our example. To follow you is our hearts desire. Please forgive us for when we have disappointed and saddened you. Please wipe the slate clean and help us start afresh this day. With eyes fixed on Jesus, reignite a desire within us to become more loving in all our ways. Thank you that your mercies are new every morning. Amen.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

CHORAL ANTHEM The Shepherd's Spiritual by Donald Moore

Mark Winston, Soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:7-18 Rev. Patricia Halverson

SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 4:4-7 Rev. Patricia Halverson

SERMON "And Grace Will Lead Me Home" Rev. Patricia Davison

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE Wait for the Lord GTG #90

WITH THANKS FOR GENEROUS GIVING

God, thank you for our church, for the way we are called to be church to a world in need. Help us to continue to share with those in need and with each other through these gifts. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*CLOSING HYMN My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout GTG #100

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*Please stand in body or spirit, as you are able

*****OPPORTUNITIES****

Join us for fellowship in Perea Hall: after worship today! December fellowship time reminder:

12/15 Pat and Corky Halverson 12/22 _

Sign-up sheet is in Perea Hall; please sign up for a Sunday. Nothing elaborate is expected.

During this Advent Season, the Sunday morning Bible-based class for adults and youth is discussing the book *Do Not Be Afraid: The Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear: The Archbishop of York's Advent Book* by Rachel Mann. The reading assignment for December 15th is WEEK 3: Using the Waiting. The reading assignment for December 22th is WEEK 4: Jesus Christ is waiting.

Books may be purchased online at Barnes & Noble, Powells.com, Alibris.com, and AbeBooks.com.

Classes are at 8:45 a.m. Sundays in the Session Room, next to the kitchen in Perea Hall and on Zoom on the same link as the Sunday Worship Service.

Christmas Eve Service – This year we will be joining our friends at the Methodist Church in celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please come and be a part of this special Musical Christmas Eve Celebration!

December 24 at 2:00 p.m. Methodist Church 1715 National Ave., Las Vegas, NM (Handicap entrance is on 8th Street)

Games and Pizza! The Old Town Mission Community Center Fun Squad is having a Games & Pizza event **today**, Sunday, December 15, from 3pm to 5 pm. The first of these community fun days was on Nov. 9 and 40 folks of all ages came to play ping-pong, board & card games, and do puzzles. Come join the fun at Chavez & Socorro!

Don't Wait, Vaccinate! Get up to date and stay up to date with the CDC recommended vaccinations. It's not just for kids anymore! Keep a written record of your own personal vaccination history. Keep a small card in your wallet; your doctor or your pharmacist can give you one. You never know when you might need to remember your last injection. Check your October newsletter for more information.

Prayers for the Church Family – Each week we choose some specific names to remind us to pray for each other and for those in our Presbytery. Please pray for Bud, Rebecca, Harper, and Rory Geng, Melissa Gilbert, and Erin, Brett, Delilah, Athena, and Soledad Gilland, as well as the Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church, Rio Rancho, NM (1986).

Joining us today in the pulpit is Rev. Patricia Davison – Rev. Patricia Davison (who goes by "Patty") is a retired Presbyterian pastor. She was born in Albuquerque, grew up in Illinois, and graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois and Fuller Theological Seminary in California. She retired from La Mesa Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. She lives in Rio Rancho and has two adult children.

December Elder of Month: Corky Halverson, 505-235-7914 December Deacon of the Month: Juli Salman, 505-429-0290

The office is open on Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. For all other times, please email or call and we will get back to you

fupc.nm@gmail.com

505-425-7763

www.lvpresbyterian.org

Assisting in Worship This Week

Preacher – Rev. Patricia Davison

Worship Leader – Rev. Patricia Halverson

Pianist – Em Krall

Choir – Amy Hufnal

Bulletin – EJ Nelson

Custodian – Henry Herrera

Sanctuary Hosts – Kevin Johnson, Charlotte Wootton

Tech Crew – Peter Linder, Van Swan, Kent Reid