

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 22

8:45 a.m. – Adult class in Session Room and via Zoom

10:30 a.m. –Worship in sanctuary and via Zoom followed Fellowship in Perea Hall

Monday, December 23

7:00 a.m. – AA in upstairs classroom

11:00 a.m. – Deacons in Session Room

6:00 p.m. – AA Meeting in The Gathering Place

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Church Office Closed

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 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

7:00 a.m. – AA meeting in upstairs classroom

6:00 p.m. – Al Anon meeting in The Gathering Place

Friday, December 27

7:00 a.m. – AA meeting in upstairs classroom

4:00 p.m. - Samaritan House Cook Team

7:00 p.m. – AA meeting in The Gathering Place

Saturday, December 28

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

Sunday, December 29

10:30 a.m. –Worship in sanctuary and via Zoom



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, P.O. Box 37

Las Vegas, NM 87701

December 22, 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

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept." Angela Davis

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 LOVE

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

UNISON PRAYER:

God of love, remind us that love is transformative, but it must be shared. We must love one another as You have first loved us, for You loved us so much You sent the Son to us, so that we might know that love can never die, that Your steadfast love remains forever. As Your love transformed the world long ago, Your love continues to transform us into Your children, and we await the promise that love will change the world again. Amen.

Carol Linder
Athena Gilland

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All: With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God's praise.

Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

*OPENING HYMN #1

Joy to the World

GTG #134

*OPENING HYMN #2

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

GTG #82

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.*

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



UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the pacifist as weak. We dominate and demean turning dialogue into debate. We wage war with enemies and invest in self-defense before giving non-violent strategies a chance. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kin-dom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 10: 5-7 Brett M. Gilland

GOSPEL READING Luke 1: 39-56 Brett M. Gilland

SERMON “From Whence Comes Christ?” Brett M. Gilland

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

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

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

THE RITUAL OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A WORD ON THE CHRIST CANDLE Carol Linder
LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Delilah Gilland

UNISON PRAYER:
O come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel. God with us, make Your presence known to us, now and always. Shine bright in the shadows and despair and may the warmth of Your love carry us forward. You changed the world forever that night long ago when You were born, and You are changing our lives, right now. On this Christmas Eve, we pray for Your transformative love to be renewed, for our own hope, peace, joy and love to be restored. Lead us into ways of participating in Your reign now by doing justice, practicing compassionate love and kindness, and walking humbly with You, our Savior and Redeemer, the Living God, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

***CLOSING HYMN** *Love Has Come* GTG #110

***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:**
12/22 Murl Baker 12/29 _____
Sign-up sheet is in Perea Hall; please sign up for a Sunday. Nothing elaborate is expected.

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)

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 22th is WEEK 4: Jesus Christ is waiting. There is no class on December 29. Classes will resume the study of “Falling upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr” on Sunday, January 12th.

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.

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 Mark Gillingham and Beth Urech, Chelsea Gutierrez, and Pat and Corky Halverson as well as the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM (1867).

Joining us today in the pulpit is Brett M. Gilland. Brett is a teacher at Rio Gallinas Community School. He has taught in Oklahoma, Alaska, and New Mexico in both public and private schools. He believes deeply in the inherent worth of all others and crafting a world driven by communal care and support.

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

<u>Assisting in Worship This Week</u>		
Preacher – Brett M. Gilland	Worship Leader – Carol Linder	
Pianist – Em Krall	Choir – Amy Hufnal	Bulletin – EJ Nelson
Custodian – Henry Herrera	Sanctuary Hosts – Kevin Johnson, Charlotte Wootton	
Tech Crew – Peter Linder, Kent Reid, Deb Allen-Reid		