



Sharing the Love of Christ
First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
PO Box 37
1000 Douglas Avenue
Las Vegas New Mexico 87701



JANUARY 2020

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

MERRY CHRISTMAS! (Remember, Christmas ends with Epiphany on Jan. 6, not at the end of the day on Dec. 25th.) **AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

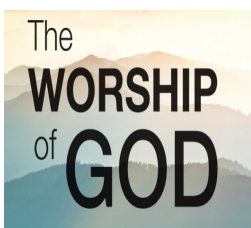
In wishing you the best for 2020, I'm particularly struck by the word "new" as we move into the **new** year. There's debate about whether the new decade begins in 2020 or 2021 (I think 2021 is winning this debate), but the numbers 2020 somehow look a lot different than the numbers 2019, don't they? At any rate, we will be marking 2020 with new celebrations for an old birthday. We'll celebrate our 150th in many ways, with a big procession and community picnic in June being the highlight.

But even as we're looking back on our church's 150-year history, we'll be doing new things to move forward. We're going to launch a new website and a logo that asks us to think about the seeds we plant, the roots that keep us grounded, the branches that we grow into the community and beyond. We're going to get together for a weekend retreat in the fall during which we will consider new facets of our culture so we can consider new things for the church.

"New" was prominent in Jesus' vocabulary, too. He shows people a "new teaching" (Mark 1:27); he tells a parable about putting new wine into new wineskins (Matthew 9:17); he brings a new covenant (Luke 22:20) and gives a new commandment that we love one another (John 13:34). Things are made new in Christ. What new thing will you be a part of in 2020?

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

WORSHIP TIDBITS



Our January worship will take us again to the manger on Epiphany Sunday (Jan. 5) as we consider what gifts we bring to the Christ child.

On Jan. 19, we will turn our attention to our baptism as we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism and reaffirm our own baptismal vows. In our reformed understanding of our faith, we believe in one baptism, and so once baptized into the Christian faith, a person does not need to be baptized again. However, it is appropriate to set aside time to consider what our baptism means to us and to reaffirm the promises made at our baptism, either personally or by our parents or other adults on our behalf. What better time to do this than when our worship focus is on Jesus' baptism and on the baptism of a child in our congregation?

As we reaffirm our vows, we will declare that we turn away from the things that separate us from God, that we turn toward the life-giving ways of Jesus the Christ, and that we commit to being a faithful disciple of Christ. I invite you, during the weeks leading up to this time of reaffirmation, to think about what it means for you to make these declarations.



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH BUILDINGS & GROUNDS?

There is still lots going on with getting our buildings ready for the 2020 celebration. The steeple at the OTM Community Center is done. The wood shingles were replaced with steel shingles that should withstand 110 mile an hour winds. We put in all new railings and slats, and replaced all the rotten wood where the bell used to be. All we need now is to install a bell (Which we have but it needs work). Wouldn't it be nice to have a bell back in the steeple? Let us know how you feel about that. Oh, and a time capsule was put under the sphere on top of the steeple. Ask Pat Leahan about what was in it.

The stucco work at the Douglas Avenue building has to stop for the winter because of freezing temperatures. The light brown color and texture will the same for the whole church building when we are done. At the same time we are painting the window trim and sills. Hope you enjoy the outcome.

Other things that are part of B&G are: making sure the grease trap for the kitchen is cleaned, locking up the church after worship on Sundays, making sure that we are in compliance with fire safety – fire extinguishers, fire suppression for the kitchen hood, and smoke detectors, and a myriad of other things. We will try to keep you posted.

From the B&G Committee, thanks for your support. Members: Cordell Halverson, Don Owens, Patrick Rucker (Secretary) and Charlotte Wootton.

–Robin Carlson, Chairperson



COMMUNITY LIFE

We are sad we did not get to host our annual Chili cook off this year, but as you all know, it is really hectic in November and December. Maybe next year!!

We had another successful Christmas luncheon at Charlie's. Thank you Mark for the use of your keyboard and thanks to Em for her music.

As you may remember, we are having a sing/ice cream social when we have a 5th Sunday. It is such a nice way to have fellowship, even for those of us that can't carry a tune.

We are taking a break in January but on **Feb. 15** we will have a progressive dinner. More details to come.

Our big project for this year will be the 2020 Retreat. We are still working on a few details which we will share with you in February. Remember the retreat will be at **Ghost Ranch Sept. 18-20. Mark your calendars.**

–Lisa Weinstein
Community Life chairperson



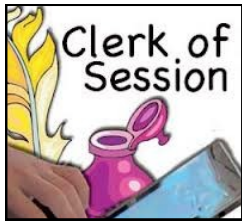
SAVE THE DATE

2020 Church Retreat at Ghost Ranch

September 18-20, 2020

Our 2020 church-wide retreat will be at Ghost Ranch, Sept. 18-20.

More information will be available soon.



CLERK'S CORNER

Session approved the 2020 Presentation Budget presented by Treasurer Mary Schipper at the open Budget Meeting on Dec. 4. It reflects a few changes made at that meeting. In her presentation, Mary alluded to FUPC budgetary trends over the past five years. These trends provided valuable information and insight as the group considered the 2020 budget. Certainly, the compilation and analysis of five years of FUPC financial data is no small task, and our hats are off to Mary and Linda in gratitude for 'doing the math' and providing that information and insight for us.

At the December Session meeting, we review the membership roll in preparation for submitting our statistical report to the Presbytery. This is a bittersweet time for me as we remove the names of those who have passed away or transferred memberships, while we add the names of new or returning members. It is a time of looking back with fondness and looking forward with hope.

Katie has been guiding the Session through a book called *Piloting Church* by Cameron Trimble (a licensed pilot), CEO of an organization called Center for Progressive Renewal (CPR), which helps to start new congregations and revitalize old congregations. For our December meeting devotional, Katie asked the question, what is church *really* about, a question posed by Trimble in the book. We shared the following answers: worshipping God, working together, faith, community connecting to know God, supporting us in our faith to know God, growing together toward God. As we begin 2020 and the 150th anniversary of our founding, I expect this question will be raised many times. How would you answer this question? And more importantly, in what directions will our answers take us as *this* church?

—Karyl Lyne, Clerk



MISSION & PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE

As you know, the congregation has been donating to the Garden Well Project from the PCUSA Giving Catalog, and the Christmas Joy Offering, which supports Menaul School in Albuquerque, Pan American University in Kingsville, Texas, and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and assistance to retired church workers. We don't know yet if we'll have enough to purchase a garden well (\$1500), but any amount helps to provide safe, clean water to people who don't have it now. Certainly, gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering support students who might not otherwise have access to higher education and assist men and women in need who have served the church for many years. We'll report donation numbers in the February newsletter, but wish to express our gratitude now for your generosity.

—Karyl Lyne, Chair

MUSIC AT FUPC



The choirs will take a two-week break from rehearsals during Christmas and New Year's Weeks, resuming rehearsals on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020. We hope you have found as much joy in our musical offerings as we have found joy in providing them to you.

—Karyl Lyne

JUMP START BREAKFAST NEEDS A FEW VOLUNTEERS



Our Sunday morning Jump Start Breakfast began several years ago with the primary mission of making Sunday mornings easier for choir members and attendees at the Bible-based class for adults and youth. Since our choirs and classes usually take holiday weekends off, the breakfast has been a 40+ week operation, manageable for one coordinator, with only occasional need for substitute.

Over the years, attendance at the breakfast has shifted to include walk-ins, church members who are not involved in choirs or class, and participants in a recently formed Sunday morning AA program. There is a need for 52-week-a-year service, and a few new volunteer substitutes to give the coordinator some time off.

Volunteers are needed for both transportation and for food preparation and clean up after the meal. Duties are to provide

- Three Rides to Breakfast 7:30-8
- Prepare Breakfast 8-8:30
- Clean-up After Breakfast 9:15-9:30
- Three Rides Home from Church 12-12:30

Breakfast usually involves setting out a variety of packaged foods, along with dishes, flatware, glasses, and napkins. These items are normally available at the church. Attendees normally assist with setting things out and washing dishes. Occasionally, the coordinator brings fresh ingredients to make a hot dish as a special treat.

Transportation is even easier, as the riders are always ready for their scheduled pickup. Also, there is no need for the same person to provide transportation as coordinates the breakfast on any given Sunday.

The usual breakfast includes

Dry Cereals
Yoghurt with Fruit
Wheat Toast with Butter and Jam
Either Bagels and Cream Cheese or Frozen French Toast
Milk, Juice and Coffee

If you would like to become a Jump Start Breakfast volunteer, please contact Richard Lindeborg. To see if you are a good match for volunteering, show up at the church at 8 a.m. some Sunday to observe the breakfast routine and share the meal. Guests are always welcome!

DEACON PRAYER

Deacon Bonnie Trujillo submits this, the first in a series of prayers from the Deacons. Blessings for a beautiful New Year.

God, help me love the life I live right now. Show me the good things I often overlook and help me be content with what I have. Forgive me when I compare myself to others, forgive me for longing for things outside of you and your kingdom. Thank you for loving me right where I am, right as I am. Help me keep my eyes on you. In Jesus' Name, Amen

OLD TOWN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS



The year 2019 has been truly impressive for the Old Town Mission Community Center for several reasons. OTMCC saw a strong uptick in usage by various groups and private parties, as well as by an active SPOT Team. They have continued to sponsor Friday Night Fun events for Las Vegas youth and their families. They also were able to plan and implement the first of two planned International Dinners this year. The Joint Operating Team has become an even stronger unit and expanded its community membership.

The next exciting thing has been the completion of the repair of the steeple. I think you'll agree that it looks like new and presents a message of commitment to the local area. Many thanks to Robin Carlson and the other members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their continuing efforts to see this project through to its conclusion. They also worked with the electrician to replace all the light bulbs in the Assembly Room and the middle Classroom with higher wattage LED bulbs and the result is (pardon the pun) electrifying! Who knew it was so dim in there?

Lastly, we are happy to let you know that we have received a gift of \$10,000 from a friend of FUPC, David Martin. David is a descendant of one of our church's founders, John Annin. He and his wife were here for the recent *Places With A Past* event and learned of our needs to upgrade the Old Town Mission Community Center to a more modern facility in the areas of comfort, usability and safety. More on this later. We hope the Martin's will be able to join us for the 2020 celebration this coming summer and that you will all take that opportunity.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

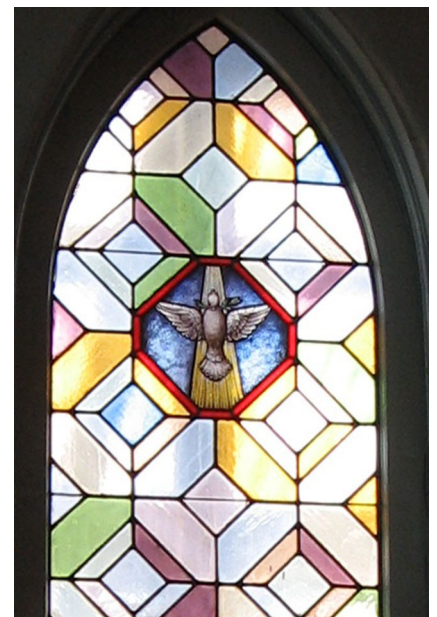
Kudos to all who helped make stars (especially Kevin!), to Mark Gillingham for stringing the lights and putting the stars up, for Beth, Charlotte and Karyl who worked tirelessly putting up the other decorations.

WAM has purchased stoles for ushers to use when we have events. It will help people identify who is "in charge."

I would like to also thank Tom, Charlotte, Karyl and Katie for all they do to make our worship meaningful and beautiful. WAM is a committee that does so many things. Most people do not realize it is WAM is who organizes a lot of our events and services.

Lent and Easter will be our next project. It will not be another boulder! Pray for us as we discern what God wants us to bring to you.

**—Lisa Weinstein
WAM Chairperson**





SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES OFFER A SPICY, APPROACHABLE TAKE ON CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

Rod Billingsley is set to lead discussion of a second set of Christian beliefs starting Jan. 12 in the East Wing of the church. The series will be based on the book *Christian Doctrine* (3rd edition) by Shirley C. Guthrie. As one reader commented, “[Guthrie] explores the various positions, offers thought-provoking ideas, and then leaves you to determine your thoughts and position.”

Rod has chosen the chapter “Who Says So? The Doctrine of Authority,” for the first session. At that session attendees will choose topics for the remaining sessions from the remaining chapters in the book:

- General Revelation: How Can We Find God?
- Special Revelation: How Does God Find Us?
- Attributes of God: What Is God Like?
- Creation: What Are We Doing Here?
- Human Beings: Who Are We?
- Sin: Why Don’t you Just Be Yourself?
- Resurrection: Who’s in Charge Here?
- The Holy Spirit: What’s New
- The Church: Living or Dead?
- Christian Hope for the Future: What’s Going to Happen to Us?

This Sunday morning series will run through Feb. 23 from 9:30 to 10:15, right after the Jump Start Breakfast (at 8:30) in Perea (fellowship) Hall.

Please contact Richard Lindeborg or the Church office if you want us to order a book for you. The cost is \$6.

SEVEN YEARS LATER

It has now been seven years that Bernadette, owner of Pam’s Flowers, has been generously giving us her “end of the week” flowers to arrange for Sunday Service. Each week is a surprise and a challenge to make two beautiful arrangements for church. I have loved being of service to God in this way and try to pass the flowers onto someone from church for a few more days of beauty.

If you have received an arrangement please return the vase to the church. If you have vases to donate, I will use them or recycle them at Pam’s Flowers.



In Glory to God, Your faithful flower arranger, Judy Long

Bible Word Search: APOSTLES / DISCIPLES

B	J	N	K	F	D	E	A	Z	T	E	T	G	D	M
Y	A	T	O	S	K	L	M	W	H	D	H	K	D	S
M	S	R	I	O	P	S	E	X	A	I	O	F	S	K
S	P	M	T	H	Z	H	P	H	D	E	M	T	F	B
O	O	C	A	H	T	Y	V	X	D	E	A	N	H	W
N	N	E	T	T	O	D	J	I	A	D	S	S	E	P
S	U	R	A	R	P	L	P	R	E	E	C	U	Y	M
S	A	M	B	I	H	H	O	X	U	B	U	H	A	G
T	O	I	R	A	C	S	I	M	S	E	L	P	T	L
T	T	N	H	S	O	Z	F	L	E	Z	N	U	S	B
N	L	U	M	T	P	L	I	R	I	W	A	L	A	T
H	R	J	Q	T	T	Z	I	A	D	P	Q	B	X	P
N	H	O	J	G	C	A	N	D	R	E	W	R	M	W
U	M	W	J	F	J	W	M	R	R	D	J	D	W	F
H	X	Y	S	U	S	W	L	P	K	R	O	R	E	P

SIMON Peter

JOHN

THOMAS

THADDAEUS

MATTHIAS

ANDREW

PHILIP

MATTHEW

SIMON

PAUL

James ZEBEDEE

BARTHOLOMEW

James ALPHAEUS

Judas ISCARIOT

Instructions:

Find and circle the words shown in all capital letters. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.

After Judas betrayed Christ, Matthias was chosen by the disciples to take his place. Saul (who changed his name to Paul) was chosen by Jesus. (Acts 9:3-6). The apostles are listed in Matthew 10:2-4.

Source: Bible Book of Lists at SusanCAnthony.com

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First United Presbyterian Church

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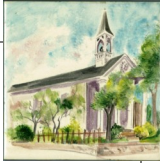
Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. - Jumpstart Breakfast:

9:30 a.m. - Bible Based Study

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship

Fellowship Hour following the worship service



JANUARY 2020



4th Betty Quick
6th Em Krall
8th Irene Crespin
16th Bob Vander Meer
17th Debra Allen-Reid
18th Evelyn Wooton
Fred Salas
19th Tom Trigg
21st Don Monnheim
29th Mark Gillingham



Communion is offered each Sunday from October 6 through Pentecost (May 31, 2020) and on the first and third Sundays of each month from June through September. We do not celebrate Communion on the fifth Sunday of a month due to the addition of the Healing Liturgy to the service.

Deep and Wide

*A Contemplative Service at the
Old Town Mission*



5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
Second and Fourth Tuesdays
at the Old Town Mission Church

This is an ecumenical gathering open to all,
sponsored by FUPC.



Samaritan House Food Donations

For January

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Coffee and Tea are always appreciated