

HELLO FUPC FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

In this mailing you'll find a note from Pastor Katie and 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 join us 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. If you need help with zoom, call D.R. Palmer before Sunday. It is so good to see and hear each other! Please plan to join us!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

Monday, September 7

Labor Day; Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

No Coffee with Katie

11:00 a.m. – Time, Talent & Treasure Committee via Zoom

Thursday, September 10

No Afternoon Tea Time



Our Daily Devotionals

Daily devotionals are available on our Facebook page - First United Presbyterian Church (the one with our *Seeds. Roots. Branches.* logo). You can also go to our website, lvpresbyterian.org, and under "Latest News" you'll find a link to the devotional. Or just click this link: [Devotionals](#)



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



August 31, 2020

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

I write this letter to you as I prepare for a week that will be focused mostly on worship planning for the coming months. That means I will have the privilege this week of reading through Scriptural texts suggested by different lectionaries and of imagining those texts' messages for us in our time.

It is always both a pleasure and a challenge to be immersed in Biblical texts for hours at a time and to discern which texts best speak to me and which, I hope, will allow me to convey messages and ask questions that will be meaningful for us all. Thank you to Pat Halverson, for filling the virtual pulpit on Sunday so that I can spend this week focused on worship planning. I ask that you hold my time of discernment in your prayers.

If you are like me, the national news continues to weigh heavily in your lives: division, violence, racism, pandemic, the destruction of fire and storm. Hold the world and especially our country in your prayers. Use your voice to speak in love for justice and for a way forward.

Lutheran minister, public theologian and author Nadia Bolz-Weber has been posting a Sunday prayer on social media each week. Below, you'll find an adaptation of her prayer from last Sunday. (I've removed her parenthetical comments and bits of more colorful language; you can see the entire prayer on Nadia's Facebook page.) I can relate to her sense of fatigue and fear during this time. Let us look to that place within us, the place where we find the divine—the place that American theologian and mystic Thomas Merton called “a point of nothingness,” that Buddhists refer to as emptiness, that Bolz-Weber calls soul—to shelter ourselves when we are overwhelmed and disheartened. Let us see and perform acts of love and kindness.

With thanks for all of you,

Pastor Katie

from Nadia Bolz-Weber's Sunday Prayer for August 30, 2020:

God of many names,

We don't know how to feel less tired.

We don't know how to vanquish our own fears.

We don't know how to stop being angry at stupid people on [social media]. . . .

We don't know how to live through a global pandemic and anti-black violence and wildfires and hurricanes and the fact that Chadwick Boseman just died. . . .

We don't know how to sustain the effort it takes to not completely freak out, and the effort it takes to keep from freaking out is one of the things that is making us so tired.

So we need some reminders right now, Lord.

Remind us that for every tragedy that's “newsworthy” there are a million kindnesses, and countless acts of love that go unreported. . . .

But more than anything, remind us of our own souls. Remind us that there is an essential, holy, unhurt part of ourselves that never tires, that does not know fear, that is unaffected by other people, that cannot be irritated, that has nothing to achieve.

If taking a few deep breaths reminds us of our truest center, then nudge us to breathe. . . .

If laughing . . . reminds us of what is most true, then nudge our friends to send funny texts.

If eating a . . . vegetable now and then reminds us that our bodies need us, then give us the will to make a salad.

Amen.

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

September 6, 2020 10:30 a.m.

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* GTG #611

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

MEDITATION – *The man who lives from God's breath can recognize with joy that the same breath sinks into the lungs of his fellowman and that they are both drawing from the same source. At this mutual realization, the fear of another disappears, a smile comes to the lips, the weapons fall, and one hand reaches out for the other.*

Henri J.M. Nouwen With Open Hands

WE GATHER TOGETHER

WELCOME Rev. Pat Halverson

PRELUDE Em Krall

ANNOUNCEMENTS Corky Halverson

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 119:33-38.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways. Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

OPENING HYMN *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven* GTG #619

OPENING PRAYER Rev. Pat Halverson

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 13:8-12

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

SERMON Rev. Pat Halverson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
for when humbly in your name two or three are met together
you are in the midst of them. Alleluia Alleluia!
Here we touch your garment's hem*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Welcome!

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

The reading assignment for the **Sunday Class for Adults and Youth** August September 13 class session is Part Five, pp. 91-119, of the book *Island of the Innocent: A Consideration of the Book of Job* by Diane Glancy. The series runs through Oct. 4. Ordering a book with express shipment or electronic delivery of the book is now desirable. In October the Class will begin a study of *Man in White*, a biography of St. Paul by (That!) Johnny Cash. Used hardcover copies (HarperCollins 1986) are available through Alibris, Abe Books, Amazon and other dealers for \$5.50 to \$12 including tax and shipping. Those who do not shop online can have Richard Lindeborg order a copy of either book to be drop shipped to your address.

Book Discussion Group - In mid-September (date/time to be determined), the book group will discuss *One Coin Found* by Emmy Kegler. Kegler, a queer woman who "knows too well how Scripture can be used to wound and exclude," narrates her experiences of being excluded and her attraction to a Bible that would not let her go. Kegler is now pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Kegler's story will allow us to discuss the Biblical texts often used to exclude. Please let Pastor Katie (pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com) know if you'd like to participate in this discussion so that participants can choose a date and time that works for all.

Pastor Katie will be on vacation through next Sunday, September 13. For pastoral care needs, please contact the church office (505-425-7763) or Mary Schipper (505-429-0285).

Samaritan House Food Donations – September – Canned milk, Canned vegetables. Coffee and Tea are always appreciated. Please drop your donations off at Samaritan House.

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 John Arnold, Bernadette Lujan, Jackson Awuzing, and Niki Sebastian as well as United Church of Los Alamos, Albuquerque NM (1947).

Assisting in Worship This Week

Preacher – Rev. Pat Halverson

Worship Leader – Corky Halverson

Accompanist – Em Krall

Zoom Host – Richard Lindeborg

Singers - Deb Allen-Reid, Judy Long, D.R. Palmer, Kent Reid

Visuals – Tegan Palmer

September Elder of the Month – Corky Halverson – 505-235-7914

September Deacon of the Month – Mary Schipper – 505-429-0285

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

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

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