

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

Tuesday, December 1

9:00 a.m. -Coffee with Katie via Zoom
1:00 p.m. – Mission and Peacemaking Committee via Zoom
4:30 p.m. – Annual Budget Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, December 3

9:30 a.m. – Worship and Music Committee via Zoom
3:30 p.m. – Tea Time with Katie via Zoom

Friday, December 4

2:00 p.m. – 2020 Unity Orchard Group via Zoom

Assisting in Worship This Week

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer Worship Leader – Beth Urech
Accompanist – Em Krall Zoom Host – D.R. Palmer
Visuals – Tegan Palmer

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

This year's Advent Study is a discussion led by Richard Lindeborg of the book *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* by Timothy Keller (2016). Sessions are on Zoom at 9:15 on Sunday mornings through December 20. The reading assignment for December 6 is Chapter 2 "The Mothers of Jesus," pp. 20-39 [Genealogy of Christ, Matthew and before]. Books are readily available. Alibris has hardback copies for as little as \$6.00 including shipping, Abe Books for \$8 and Amazon for \$10. Paper Trail may also be able to order copies. If you prefer, Richard can order a copy shipped directly to your home.

If you are participating in the **Reverse Advent Calendar** collection for Samaritan House, it begins today! You can find the list of items to add to your gift box in the newsletter or on the church website (lvpresbyterian.org).

Our annual budget meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1 via Zoom. All are welcome; use the same link you would use to join our worship service.

Samaritan House Food Donations – December – Canned Meats, Fish, Chicken. 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 Carol, Ken, Nicky, Christina and Joyce Litherland, and Judy & Michael Long as well as First Presbyterian Church, Taos NM (1955).

December Elder of the Month – D.R. Palmer – 303-775-7259

December 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.

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505-425-7763

www.lvpresbyterian.org

Rev Katie Palmer – Office: 425-7763 Cell: 303-775-7356 pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com



November 25, 2020

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

Welcome to the season of Advent, when we turn our attention to the coming of the Christ child into the world at Christmas. It is a time of waiting for what is to come. In fact, the root of the word “advent” literally means “toward the coming.” It is a time to wait, but not a time to be idle. It is a time to prepare for this Advent Event. The season has, in our consumerist society, so intertwined preparation for Christmas with shopping, holiday glitter, and holiday gatherings that our preparation for the real Christmas (literally Christ’s Mass) gets lost. This year, in the midst of COVID, we have a unique opportunity to prepare in a less frazzled environment.

We begin that preparation on Sunday with worship for the first Sunday of Advent. Worship will look a little different. Rather than a Call to Worship, we will proclaim our identity as God’s people. Listen for the Advent Introit, which reminds us of our desire to “yield to the Potter” as we prepare for Christmas. I invite you to participate in the Advent Wreath liturgy by having a candle nearby to light at the appropriate time. Additionally, as is our tradition on 5th Sundays, we will conclude our time together with a service of healing; please have a bit of oil (cooking oil is fine) or water available if you’d like to participate in the anointing.

Finally, I encourage you to set aside a few minutes each day for an Advent devotional. Below, you will find devotionals you might use in the coming week.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

Sunday – We light the candle of Hope this week. Pray this or a similar prayer each day as you light a candle: *God of Hope, we so often bandy the word “hope” about in the context of wishful thinking. Let us instead open ourselves to the hope that comes from a deep trust in your love and to your shaping work in our lives. Amen.*
This week, start each day’s devotional with this prayer.

Monday – Write or draw how you experience hope. You may choose to write a poem or prayer, a short story, or a journal entry. You may draw a simple image in pencil. Or paint an entire canvas in oils. Feel free to revise/continue this work throughout the week.

Tuesday – Ponder this acrostic poem from Sharon Vander Meer’s *25 Days of Christmas: An Advent Journey*.

Hope

Hope and happiness,
Opportunity and trust,
Promised His presence,
Encounter our Lord, He is just.

Wednesday – Eat a healthy snack. As you eat, focus intentionally on what you hope it will nourish you to accomplish.

Thursday – Take an action that embodies your hope in God’s kingdom. Write a letter of encouragement to someone who needs it, donate to a cause that is important to you, write a letter to a local, state or national representative encouraging action you feel strongly about, or decide on another action of your own choosing. Reflect on how taking that action demonstrates hope in the promise of the kingdom God envisions for us.

Friday – Take a walk—around your house, yard, neighborhood or wherever you’d like. As you walk, look for something that gives you hope or that embodies your sense of hope. Take a photo of it. (If you don’t have a camera with you, take a mental photo.) Share the photo on the church Facebook page or with a friend.

Saturday – Look back over the devotional activities for the week—the prayer, what you’ve written or drawn, Sharon’s poem, your snack experience, your action, your walk and photo. Articulate for yourself what these things reveal about how you see hope at work in your life. How might our Potter God be shaping you through hope?

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

November 29, 2020 10:30 a.m.



YIELDING TO THE POTTER

MEDITATION – *Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.* – Isaiah 40:31

WE GATHER TOGETHER

WELCOME	Rev. Katie Palmer
PRELUDE	Em Krall
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Beth Urech
MINUTE FOR MISSION – Kairos Palestine	Karyl Lyne

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.

OPENING PROCLAMATION from Isaiah 64

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence!
... When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ...
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you. ...
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

ADVENT INTROIT *Shape This Lump of Clay*

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* (GTG #89, v. 1, 3, 5)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Daniel 6:6-27

... [T]he presidents and satraps conspired [against Daniel] and came to the king and said to him, 'O King Darius, live forever! All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counsellors and the governors, are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.' Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.

Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open towards Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, 'O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?' The king answered, 'The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.' Then they responded to the king, 'Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.'

When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, 'Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.'

Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!' A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, 'O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?' Daniel then said to the king, 'O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.' Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. The king gave a command, and those who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: 'May you have abundant prosperity! I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel:

For he is the living God, enduring forever. His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end. He delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for he has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.'

So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

SERMON *Reshape and Spread The Word* Rev. Katie Palmer

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE *The Ritual of the Advent Wreath – HOPE*

A GOD EXPERIENCE Karyl Lyne

BLESSING FOR HEALING AND RESHAPING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN *Prepare the Way of the Lord* (GTG #95)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE