

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 22

9:00 a.m. -Coffee with Katie via Zoom

Thursday, December 24

5:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols via Zoom

NO Afternoon Tea Time

Friday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Assisting in Worship This Week

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer
Accompanist – Em Krall
Director of Music – Karyl Lyne

Worship Leader – Juli Salman
Zoom Host – D.R. Palmer
Visuals – Tegan Palmer



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



December 16, 2020

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

As we enter the fourth and last week of Advent, we will light the candle of Love. Our Scripture will welcome us into the story of a young woman who receives a visit from an angel, who finds herself pregnant and unwed, and who identifies herself as God's servant as she prepares to birth the Christ child.

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper as our Advent waiting draws near fruition. Please have a bite of something to eat and a sip of something to drink with you as you zoom in for worship. Just as Jesus used the ordinary foodstuff common to first century homes—bread and wine—use what is common in your home. The presence of Christ will be in it as we share the sacred feast!

Below, you'll find some suggestions for your Advent devotionals for the week of love.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

Sunday – We light the candle of Love this week. Pray this or a similar prayer each day as you light a candle: *We praise you, O God of Love, for showing your love to us through the birth of Jesus, the Christ. Give us pause to drink in that love during these last few days of Advent waiting. Let your love guide us in all we do. Amen.*

This week, start each day's devotional with this prayer.

Monday – Write or draw how you experience love. 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, "Carols," by Sharon Vander Meer:

Call out! Shout for joy!
Advent sings of a baby boy,
Reigning not as a regal king.
One babe in the manger, that's the thing.
Live, love, laugh, dance, sing and shout!
Sharing this, His love, is what Christmas is about.

Wednesday – Take an action to show God's love in a big way today by gifting those whom we have pledged to remember as a Matthew 25 church: the hungry and thirsty, the imprisoned, the sick, the naked, the stranger. Write a letter to a prisoner, go the extra step with a food or monetary donation to a local soup kitchen or food distribution center, donate to an organization that works toward a cure for a particular disease.

Thursday – Do something extra special for someone you love. And then attend the Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols and absorb the magnitude of God's love for us through the Christmas story.

Friday – Take a Christmas Day walk—around your house, yard, neighborhood or wherever you'd like. As you walk, look for something that demonstrates love in some way. 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 action of love, your Christmas Eve "extra special" something or attendance at worship, and your photo. Articulate for yourself what these things reveal about how you see love in your life and in the world. How might our Potter God be shaping you through love?



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701
December 20, 2020 10:30 a.m.



YIELDING TO THE POTTER

MEDITATION – *I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.* – Psalm 13:5

WE GATHER TOGETHER

WELCOME Rev. Katie Palmer
PRELUDE Em Krall
ANNOUNCEMENTS Juli Salman
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 – Psalm 89:1-4

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. You said, ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: “I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.”’

ADVENT INTROIT *Shape This Lump of Clay*

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN *He Came Down* (GTG #137, verses hope, peace, joy, love)

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:26-45

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

SERMON *Pregnant with Christ* Rev. Katie Palmer

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

RESPONSE *The Ritual of the Advent Wreath – LOVE*

A GOD EXPERIENCE Pat Halverson

THE LORD’S SUPPER

*Today, we remember Jesus as we are nourished at this table using food and drink common to our kitchens.
We trust that the elements you use will become for you the presence of Christ.*

INVITATION AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

INSTITUTION OF THE ELEMENTS AND COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Please join the pastor in lifting your “bread” and “cup” at the appropriate time

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 BEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

- * **Christmas Eve Service** – Thursday, December 24 @ 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Connect via the same link used for Sunday worship services.
- * If you are participating in the **Reverse Advent Calendar to fill a box for Samaritan House**, please note that the Samaritan House offices are closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please drop off your box December 21, 22, or 23 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at 501 7th Street.
- * The **Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Donations are received throughout December. If you give online, you will find a listing there for the Christmas Joy Offering.
- * **The Christmas season study** for the Bible-based class for adults and youth is a discussion led by Richard Lindeborg of the rest of the book *Hidden Christmas: The surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* by Timothy Keller (2016). Sessions will run through January 17 on Zoom at 9:15 on Sundays. The reading assignment for December 27 is Chapter 4 “Where is the King?” pp. 63-78. Since sessions have already started it might be best to purchase a Kindle copy or order a hard copy with expedited shipping. Richard can also order a copy shipped directly to your home.
- * **Samaritan House Food Donations** – December - Canned meats, tuna, 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 Katie & D.R. Palmer, Bob & Carrol Pearson, and Chuck & Duffy Peterson as well as Covenant Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque 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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