

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 7

7:30 a.m. – Time, Talent and Treasure Committee via Zoom

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

Wednesday, December 9

Joint Operating Team via Zoom

Thursday, December 10

3:30 p.m. – Tea Time with Katie via Zoom

Assisting in Worship This Week

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer

Worship Leader – Deb Allen-Reid

Accompanist – Em Krall

Zoom Host – D.R. Palmer

Visuals – Tegan Palmer



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



December 2, 2020

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

As we are all aware, this Advent season will not be “normal,” and it comes after a long stretch of abnormal in our lives. We are suffering from “COVID fatigue”—tired of the restrictions that limit our activity, worried about the spread of the disease among people we care about, perhaps grieving over the death of someone we know who has died from COVID or grieving over COVID death statistics. That fatigue can manifest in short tempers that cause unrest in communities and it can result in inner personal turmoil.

On Sunday, as we enter the second week of Advent, we will light the candle of Peace and focus the week’s devotionals on peace. As you set aside some time each day for your devotionals, please consider both the inner peace we can experience when we allow God to shape us—even amid the reality of COVID fatigue—and the peace that can come to our nation and among nations when we work toward respecting one another.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

Sunday – We light the candle of Peace this week. Pray this or a similar prayer each day as you light a candle: *God of Peace, when we look to the world for your peace, we are sadly disappointed to see strife and division among your people. When we look inside ourselves for your peace, we often find turmoil there as well. Gracious God, remind us that, when we open ourselves to be reshaped by your hands, we **can** find your peace in our hearts and we can work together toward a peaceful world. Amen.*
This week, start each day’s devotional with this prayer.

Monday – Write or draw how you experience peace. 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 excerpt from the poem “Christmas Bells” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

Wednesday – Listen intently to a piece of music that calms you and leaves you feeling at peace. Pay close attention to this feeling; harken back to it when you experience inner turmoil.

Thursday – Ask yourself if there is someone in your life with whom you are not at peace. Perhaps there is a rift in your family or with someone you used to consider a friend. Perhaps you believe that a local or national leader has endorsed a policy that leads to unrest rather than peace. Write that person a letter explaining how you feel and offering a way forward. Then decide if you want to mail that letter. (Keep in mind that the person to whom you write may be yourself.)

Friday – Take a walk—around your house, yard, neighborhood or wherever you’d like. As you walk, look for something that gives you peace or that reveals your sense of peace. 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, Longfellow’s poem, your music experience, your action, your letter, and your photo. Articulate for yourself what these things reveal about how you see peace in your life and in the world. How might our Potter God be shaping you through peace?

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

December 6, 2020

10:30 a.m.



YIELDING TO THE POTTER

MEDITATION – *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.* –Jesus, in John 14:27

WE GATHER TOGETHER

WELCOME	Rev. Katie Palmer
PRELUDE	Em Krall
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Deb Allen-Reid
MINUTE FOR MISSION – Imagination Library	Elizabeth Ratzlaff
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 – Isaiah 40:1-5, 11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ . . .
[God] will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

ADVENT INTROIT *Shape This Lump of Clay*

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (GTG #87)

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

¹² Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. . . .
²⁸ Then afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.
²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

SERMON *Soaking Up the Spirit of Renewal* Rev. Katie Palmer

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

RESPONSE *The Ritual of the Advent Wreath – PEACE*

A GOD EXPERIENCE Joyce Litherland

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

CLOSING HYMN *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* (GTG #103)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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 13 is Chapter 3, "The Fathers of Jesus" pp.40-62 [Divinity and Humanity, Matthew and beyond]. 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.
- ✳ **Christmas Eve Service** – Thursday, December 24 @ 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Connect via the same link used for Sunday worship services.
- ✳ 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.
- ✳ **CONGRATULATIONS** to Siobhan Croto, who was commissioned into ministry as a Commissioned Pastor to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church in Raton, NM, on November 29. Please hold Siobhan and her ministry in your prayers.
- ✳ **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 Rosalie Lopez, Karyl Lyne & Patrick Rucker, Bernie Meadows and Gail Malley as well as Smith Memorial United Presbyterian Church, Truchas NM (1903).



*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.*

fupc.nm@gmail.com 505-425-7763 www.lvpresbyterian.org

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