

**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, January 11**

7:30 a.m. - Personnel Committee via Zoom

**Tuesday, January 12**

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

2:00 p.m. - Community Life Committee via Zoom

**Wednesday, January 13**

4:00 p.m. - JOT via Zoom

**Thursday, December 31**

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

**Saturday, January 16**

9:00 a.m. - Worship and Music Planning Retreat via Zoom

**Assisting in Worship This Week**

Preacher - Rev. Katie Palmer      Worship Leader - Van Swan  
Director of Music - Karyl Lyne      Accompanist - Em Krall  
Zoom Host - D.R. Palmer      Visuals - Tegan Palmer



First United Presbyterian Church  
1000 Douglas Avenue  
PO Box 37  
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January 6, 2021

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

I hope your Christmas week was full of joy and your New Year's celebration full of hope for things to come. Thank you for all the cards and well-wishes that came to the Palmer house during the season. We had a relaxing, rather lazy, week away from things, enjoying some beautiful drives, working on some household tasks, and sleeping in. As someone I talked to said, it was the kind of vacation that doesn't demand a second vacation for recovery. ☺

This coming Sunday we retrace our steps a bit, back to the magi's visit to Jesus, which they completed by following that famous star. Our nativity sets—many of which we saw in photos on Christmas Eve as we listened to the well-known "Away in a Manger"—often conflate the coming of the magi with the visit of the shepherds. These two events happen in different gospels. It seems that the shepherds visit shortly after Jesus' birth, having been told by the chorus of angels that they would find this baby Messiah in Bethlehem (Luke 2). In Matthew's gospel, we hear the story of the magi's visit. A close read tells us that by then Jesus was probably a toddler, for Herod, after questioning the magi about when the star appeared to announce the new king's birth, killed infants two and under in his attempt to annihilate any would-be king (Matthew 2). You might remember that Jesus escaped this massacre because Joseph was told by an angel, in a dream, to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt, where they became refugees in a foreign land until after Herod's death. On Sunday we will open worship by remembering Epiphany—the day in our liturgical calendar (January 6) that recalls the visit of the magi, their recognition of Jesus as king of the Jews, and our recognition of Jesus as the Incarnate God.

From there, we will move toward the time, as recorded in the Gospel of Luke, when John the Baptist begins to baptize people and predicts the coming of one greater than he. We will hear the very understated version of Jesus' baptism in this gospel.

We will have the opportunity to respond to the gospel message with **a renewal of our own baptismal vows. Please have a small bowl of water nearby** so that you can mark the sign of the cross in water on your forehead as a symbol of our renewal of these vows. Below, I have included three haikus from Margaret Moran about baptism; I hope you find them thought-provoking.

Over the next several weeks, as we move toward the Lenten season (which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17), we will follow the stories of Jesus' early ministry as recorded by Luke. I hope these stories will be meaningful and will set us on the way with Jesus.

With thanks for all of you,  
Pastor Katie

**Baptism**

Only the start of  
Our story we try to grow  
To fullness of life

**Felt On Baptism Day**

Sense of peace and joy  
Closeness and love of God when  
New life entered in

**Baptism Symbolizes**

Opening of our hearts  
Toward the mystery already there  
Welcomes love of God

*January Elder of the Month - Carol Litherland - 505-454-9704 or 505-429-0923*

*January Deacon of the Month - Juli Salman - 505-429-0290*

*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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