

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, April 26

11:00 a.m. – Deacons via Zoom

Tuesday, April 27

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

11:00 a.m. – Buildings and Grounds

6:30 p.m. – Session via Zoom

Saturday, May 1

9:00 a.m. - Membership Information Class via Zoom



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

April 21, 2021

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

SIGH. That is a big sigh of relief that on Tuesday, April 20, we submitted our proposal for the Clergy Renewal Program grant, which we have been working on for the last few months. Thanks again to the dedicated task force members who poured so much time and energy into this work: Pam Abreu, D.R. Palmer, Renee Soderlund, and Denice Spicer. We won't know if we will be a grant recipient for at least four months, but even if we do not receive the grant, the work will not be wasted. With your input, we have written ideas into the grant that we can use for clergy and congregational renewal—even if they might need to be modified.

Our proposal's theme—Tracking the Word: Embodying the Spirit—proved to be a rich metaphor for a renewal that offers everyone a chance to participate in ways that make connections to the holy and that stretch our experiences. It seems that the idea of tracking is not completely unique to us; in researching articles about a Scripture text a couple of weeks ago, I ran across this comment from Anglican priest Bob Stuhlmann, writing about a Bible Study class he held in the Boston projects: *It was the cockroach racing up the concrete block wall of the Project apartment that assaulted me with the pure presence of Christ. Of course I was always looking for a sign, any sign of the holy, scouring the ground for spores and scat and anything that would lead and guide me on...* For me, though, it's a new and intriguing idea; how do we track the holy?

When the task force presented the ideas that fill the pages of the proposal last Sunday, we didn't have time for a lot of details. I thought you might want to know something about some of the professional coaches included as congregational workshop leaders in the proposal. Here's a bit about three of the leaders.

Professor Roger Holland is a conductor, composer, pianist, singer and Teaching Assistant Professor in Music and Religion at the University of Denver. He also directs The Spirituals Project at the Lamont School of Music. Specializing in African American Music and Theology, Prof. Holland holds both a Master of Music in Piano Performance and a Master of Divinity in Theology. He has agreed to lead a renewal workshop on music and social justice—two passions of our congregation.

Jen Friedman is an interfaith minister, hospital chaplain and Dances of Universal Peace Leader and Mentor from Longmont, CO. She has worked as a consulting minister and musician for fifteen years and is well-versed in teaching with an “open-hearted no-mistake philosophy.” The Dances of Universal Peace are meditative, joyous, multi-cultural circle dances using sacred phrases from the world's spiritual traditions and beloved songs from the peace movement. Jen's workshop will teach dance as a way of embodying Spirit with movement, responding to requests we received from our congregation for more movement in worship.

Rev. Seth Finch is Pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. Fascinated with storytelling and its connection to our stories of faith, Seth and his congregation submitted a proposal and received funding through the Clergy Renewal Program grant a few years ago. Both he and the congregation learned the art of storytelling; during his sabbatical, Seth continued studying and practicing storytelling and has now offered to share that art with us during our time of renewal.

We will let you know when we hear whether the grant proposal was successful. In the meantime, I hope that the plans have energized you as they have those of us who worked on the task force. We couldn't have done it without your ideas and support.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

April 25, 2021 10:30 a.m.

~~~~~MOVED BY THE SPIRIT~~~~~

**MEDITATION** – *Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization.*

–Mahatma Gandhi

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

**WELCOME**

Rev. Katie Palmer

**PRELUDE**

Em Krall

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Renee Soderlund

**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** (inspired by 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

Together we are the body of Christ, filled with the Spirit.

**All members of the body are one, though individually we are exquisitely diverse.**

Together we are the family of God as we gather just as we are to worship our Creator God.

**We are the body of Christ, and individually members of it. Let us worship the God of Steadfast Love!**

**OPENING HYMN** *Here in This Place* (GTG #401)

**OPENING PRAYER**

**WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 8:26-39

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is

water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

**SERMON** *What Is To Prevent Us?*

Rev. Katie Palmer

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**RESPONSE** *Take Me to the Water* (GTG #480, v. 1 & 4)

**WITH THANKS FOR GENEROUS GIVING** *Doxology*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**WE GO FORTH IN GOD’S NAME**

**CLOSING HYMN** *Sacred the Body* (GTG #27)

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

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

**Remember Presbyterian Bingo at 3 p.m. today** right here on Zoom!

Next Saturday at 9 a.m., Pastor Katie will hold a **Membership Information Class via Zoom**. If you enjoy worshipping with us and would like to learn more about membership, how our particular church operates, and the PC(USA) denomination, plan to Zoom in just as you would for worship. There are no geographical boundaries; if you worship with us from out of town or out of state, you are still welcome to join in this class.

**The Sunday morning class for adults and youth** is discussing *Virus as a Summons to Faith: Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief and Uncertainty* by Walter Brueggemann and *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath* by N.T. Wright. See the April newsletter or contact Richard Lindeborg for information on how to obtain the books. The reading assignment for **May 2** is Brueggemann, pp. 35-56, Ch.4: “Praying Amid the Virus-- 1 Kings” and Ch. 5: “The ‘Turn’ from Self to God--Psalm 77.”

**Samaritan House Food Donations** – April– Boxed Potatoes or other entrée. 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 Bud and Rebecca Geng, Harper and Rory; Mark Gillingham and Beth Urech; and Frank Hager and as well as First Presbyterian Church in Farmington (1889).

*April Elder of the Month – Carol Linder – 505-429-2139*

*April Deacon of the Month – Renee Soderlund –505-429-1885*

*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](mailto:fupc.nm@gmail.com) 505-425-7763 [www.lvpresbyterian.org](http://www.lvpresbyterian.org)*

*Rev Katie Palmer – Office: 425-7763 Cell: 303-775-7356 [pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com)*

**Assisting in Worship This Week**

Worship Leader – Renee Soderlund

Director of Music - Karyl Lyne Accompanist – Em Krall

Zoom Host – D.R. Palmer Visuals – Tegan Palmer Office Manager – Crystal Western Ford

Singers:

Deb Allen-Reid, Christie Baskett, Jan Beurskens, Mark Gillingham,

Judy Long, Karyl Lyne, D.R. Palmer, Kent Reid