

## 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, May 4

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

3:00 p.m. - Mission and Peacemaking via Zoom

#### Thursday, May 6

9:30 a.m. - Worship and Music via Zoom



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



April 28, 2021

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Easter and also the first Sunday in May. Time flies, but there's no mistaking it. The buds on the trees speak to spring; I especially love the trees that bloom in purple and lavender as they wave in the northern New Mexico "breezes." What is your favorite sign of spring?

This Sunday, we'll talk about a different kind of sign and the arguments that surrounded it in the early church—circumcision, the sign of belonging for the people of Israel; the sign that identified this people (well, the men anyway) as part of this particular tribe, a sign that was sacred for this people. But as the way of Jesus began to spread to the Gentile community, there was much argument over whether Gentile converts to The Way—Jesus' Way—needed to be circumcised before becoming part of the family. The question was big enough ("Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them") that the church convened a meeting in Jerusalem among Paul, Barnabas, the apostles and elders of the church. Like Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch, which we heard about last week, this "Jerusalem Council," as it's now known, tells us something about how we as church people are to operate. The lesson goes beyond a decision on one issue—in this case, circumcision—to address issues of inclusion and change.

We will also share The Lord's Supper together on Sunday, so please have with you a bite of something to eat and a bit of something to drink. As always, anything that's common to your kitchen is fine, whether that's bread and juice, fruit and tea, donut and coffee. We trust that the presence of Christ will find its way into whatever elements we eat and drink during this meal to which Christ invites us.

On another note, I ask that you keep an eye out for two things that will be coming to you via email or snail mail. One is the May newsletter, which is chock full of information this month. Another is a survey that asks you whether or not you plan to attend worship in person when we are able to again open the doors. Now that San Miguel County is in the turquoise zone, we are getting close to that time. Of course, when we do meet, we will still need to follow state guidelines by distancing ourselves in the building, wearing masks, and practicing other precautions (such as no congregational singing), but we will be able to be in the building together. At the same time, those who do not feel comfortable being indoors with others just yet and those who join us virtually from other places across the country (and sometimes beyond our borders!) will still be able to join us electronically. As frustrating as it can be, technology offers us wonderful ways to be together—to include those who for whatever reason are not physically with us.

With thanks for all of you,  
Pastor Katie



**FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

May 2, 2021 10:30 a.m.

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

**MEDITATION** – *God is on a mission to love, save, and bless the whole world.* –Rolf Jacobson

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

**WELCOME** Rev. Katie Palmer

**PRELUDE** Em Krall

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Joyce Litherland

**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** (adapted from Isaiah 25:6-10)

God makes for all peoples a feast of rich food, of well-matured wines.

**God destroys that which oppresses all peoples, that which brings darkness.**

God wipes away the tears from all faces.

**Let us rejoice in God's salvation; let us worship the God of all peoples!**

**OPENING HYMN** *God Welcomes All* (GTG #399)

**OPENING PRAYER**

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Acts 15:1-18

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

“After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord— even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.”

**SERMON** *Unless* Rev. Katie Palmer

**WE SEAL GOD'S WORD**

**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.*

**COMING TO THE TABLE** *Come to the Table of Grace* (GTG #507, v. 1, 3, 4)

**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**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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

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

**WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

**CLOSING HYMN** *Faith Begins by Letting Go* (GTG #684)

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

**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 May newsletter or contact Richard Lindeborg for information on how to obtain the books. The reading assignment for May 9 is pp. 57-72, Brueggemann Chapter 6: “God's New Thing-- Isaiah 43” and Chapter 7: “The Matrix of Groan--Isaiah 42.” This discussion runs through June 6, so there is still time to buy a book and join in.

**Samaritan House Food Donations** – May– Rice and beans. 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 Corky and Pat Halverson, Ruth Hazelton and Pablo Hernandez as well as Westminster Presbyterian Church, Gallup, NM (1961).

*May Elder of the Month – Joyce Litherland – 505-429-0037*

*May Deacon of the Month – Rosie Lopez –505-429-6420*

*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](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 – Joyce Litherland

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, Karyl Lyne, DR Palmer, Mark Gillingham and Kent Reid