



Sharing the Love of Christ

First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

PO Box 37

1000 Douglas Avenue

Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

AUGUST 2021

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

As we move into August, D.R. and I are very excited about an upcoming visit from our daughter Emily and her family. We have not seen them since Thanksgiving 2019. Before we could visit them in 2020, COVID had restricted travel. We are SO EAGER to see them. At Thanksgiving time in 2019, our youngest granddaughter Hope was eight months old and crawling everywhere. She turned two this March, and of course she is now walking, running, climbing, jumping and talking up a storm. Fortunately, we've been able to "see" her and her three older siblings, thanks to technology. But in a couple of weeks, we'll get hugs and real time with them!

As I look forward to this time with family, I'm reminded of family gatherings for less happy occasions—gatherings in which our church family has shared. We grieve with the families of our church family members who have died recently: Joyce Litherland on May 11, Bernie Meadows on June 20, and Betty Quick on June 24. And our hearts ache with Maria Weinrich and her family as they mourn the death of Maria's son Brahm. Grief is such a difficult thing. It sparks memories that bring both laughter and tears. It brings an empty chair to the family table at the same time it can bring relief that a loved one is no longer in pain. It both hurts us and makes us grateful for the life of the one we've lost.

Our church family has also had its share of scary medical events recently. I am still dealing with follow-up appointments after my small stroke in May, although I feel fine. As you know, we were in Denver earlier this month while our daughter Tegan had surgery; she, too, has upcoming follow-up appointments. And we wish continued healing and patience for others who are in recovery and follow-up modes—for Chad Boliek, Robin Carlson, Tom Trigg and Patrick Rucker and for those who are in pain and working with medical teams to find answers.

Whether we sit with one another in celebration or in support, we remember that we are one family. Like all families, we experience the relationship that makes us impatient, or the one that irritates us. But we are family nonetheless. So let's work to be gentle with one another and to provide support and companionship for the entire family. And remember to be a gentle caregiver to yourself as well.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie



WORSHIP TIDBITS

The end-of-summer worship series asks us to look at “God’s Big Picture.” The image that grounds this series may seem an unlikely one, but I’m finding that it helps me as I prepare worship. The image is of the TARDIS (Time and Relative Dimensions In Space) spacecraft from the British sci-fi television series *Dr. Who*. In this series, the Doctor uses the TARDIS to fly through time and space on his many adventures, during which he usually saves the universe from destruction. On the outside, the TARDIS looks like an ordinary British police box, but on the inside it is enormous.



Each week during this series, I will try to look at how our message from God’s Word looks in the day-to-day (the police box view), but also deep inside God’s BIG Picture (the inside TARDIS view), where things unfold on a scale that we don’t always stop to think about. I hope you’ll explore this big picture with me.

Tentatively, here’s our exploration chart:

July 18 – Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Ephesians 1:1-14: *Something Big*

July 25 – Genesis 2:18-23, Deuteronomy 15:7-8, Ephesians 4:25, 29-32: *Made for Community*

August 1 – Genesis 4:8-10, 37:17b-20; Mark 10:35-37, 14:1; 1 Corinthians 1:11-13a: *Broken, But On Our Way to Wholeness*

August 8 – Ephesians 2:1-22 and 1 Peter 4:8-10 – *Brokenness Overcome*

August 15 – Ephesians 4:1-16 (and possibly Matthew 20:24-28) – *Growing Into Christ*

August 29 - Genesis 12: 1- 3 (and possibly Matthew 20:24-28) – *Blessed to be a Blessing*

September 5 – Ephesians 6:10-20 – *God’s Loving Armor*



You can find our weekday devotionals on the FUPC Facebook page or by clicking on the “devotionals” link under “Latest News” on our website at lvpresbyterian.org. These devotionals provide a short time out from the bustle of our daily activity to spend time focused on our spiritual journey.

Thank you to those who have committed to providing weekly devotionals:

Monday – Pastor Katie

Wednesday – Rod Billingsley

Friday – Denise Spicer

Tuesday – Beth Urech

Thursday – Pat Halverson



CLERK'S CORNER

I'm always humbled and amazed by the history of our church. Rev. Randy Campbell amplified that history recently by recounting the remarkable life of Rev. Jose Inez Perea, one of our founding pastors. We heard about his extensive educational background, his world travels, his conflict with his family over religion, and his ending up in Las Vegas with a herd of sheep and Rev. John Annin. The church they built on Chavez Street stands as a reminder of their work and ministry, not to mention the roots for the Menaul School now located in Albuquerque. The Douglas Avenue church, built shortly after the church on Chavez Street, now First UNITED Presbyterian Church, continues to point to our history. We are UNITED because the Chavez Street church, the Trementina Presbyterian Church and the Douglas Avenue church combined some years ago making us First United Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas, N.M.

I made a fun and interesting discovery a few weeks ago that adds another little piece to our history, and one I hope one of you will be able to flesh out. The candle lighters, used to light and snuff candles for worship, have a waxed string wick, which is lit and pulled up through the handle of the candle lighter as it is burned each week. After a number of weeks, the wick runs out and has to be replaced. Patrick has assumed that responsibility over the years and it needed to be done a few weeks ago, so we brought the candle lighters home to replace the wicks. The brass had also discolored, so I decided to polish them. Low and behold, there appeared an inscription on the smaller of the two, which reads "In memory of L.D. McCurdy and Mr & Mrs J.C. Hope". I have looked in the church register to see if these people were members of FUPC, but found no listing for them, although the current register does not have listings earlier than the 1960s. Of course our microfilmed registers do have that information, but I don't have a microfilm reader. I consulted with Bruce Wertz, whose memory for names is remarkable, and he said he thought the Hopes were members in the 1950s, but did not know about L.D. McCurdy. Should any of you know the story behind the inscription on the small candle lighter, please let me know so we can add it to our church history.

—Karyl Lyne, Clerk of Session

SimpliSafe Security System

Session has purchased SimpliSafe Security Systems for both 1000 Douglas and the Old Town Mission (OTM) Community Center. Last year's theft at the OTM and our recent significant investment in technology to bring high quality hybrid worship services to our church family have raised our awareness of our current vulnerabilities. While we are all excited to be back in our church buildings, we want to make sure that the buildings are secure. Trustees and B&G will activate the security system in mid-August; alarms, glass breaks, motion detectors, and cameras located throughout the facility will be active when the building is unoccupied. All personnel, volunteers, and groups using our facilities will be given a code to allow access to the building. Codes can easily be changed as necessary.



Calling all Keys!

If you have any church keys, please let the office know as soon as possible so that we can put you on the list to receive an entry code. If you have a key you no longer need, please return it!

For questions, contact Carol Linder 505 429-2139, carollinder@msn.com



GETTING THE WORD OUT

To all committees and groups, please remember that the Tech Team is happy to publish news about your event on our website and Facebook page. Please provide the information as well as a picture (or an idea for one) to D.R. Palmer at pathfarer@gmail.com. We will usually feature the event with a picture on the website homepage and a button to click to get more information. It helps to get the word out if we have information online as well as in the bulletin and newsletter.

– Worship & Music Committee

HYBRID WORSHIP UPDATE

Hybrid worship is called that because it includes both on-site and on-line participants. This is our “new normal” for worship and has allowed folks to attend from home while they recover from illness, or live far away, or just had a difficult morning and aren't ready to go out yet. Those of you who are on-site, be sure to say hello to the Zoomers as you enter and leave. The hybrid method has allowed us to have worship leaders and preachers on Zoom, which allows our service to be led by a wider group of people than would be possible on-site. We are sure to find even more ways to expand our circle to include others in our worship experience.

Construction has begun to install the Perea Hall AV equipment. We will have a large motorized screen on the north wall and a projector and speakers that can receive the stream from the sanctuary. If we have a service or event that exceeds the capacity of the sanctuary, then Perea Hall can serve as overflow seating. The system can also run standalone, say for a presentation by a guest speaker or to watch a movie from a laptop.

We thank you all for your patience and feedback as we work out the kinks in the system, especially regarding the sound issues we have had with Zoom. We hope most of those issues are now under control, but Murphy's Law says there will likely be new ones to come. Please let us know of any improvements or problems so we can address them.

– Worship & Music Committee



Update from Time Treasure and Talents Committee

Thank you, Mary Schipper for your work as Treasurer!

We appreciate your commitment and willingness to work with Session and all committees to maintain the integrity of our church finances. Personally, you made my transition as chair of Time, Talents and Treasures (TTT) committee much easier and more enjoyable!

We also appreciate and thank Denice Spicer for assuming the role as Treasurer and Pam Abreu's help with payroll and on the TTT committee!

Carol Linder



Forget Big C Christian History—There is also a Generative Christianity

From Aug. 22 through Halloween, the Sunday morning Bible-based class for adults and youth will discuss *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story* by Diana Butler Bass. The class is still on Zoom and is now at 9 a.m. instead of 9:15, ending before 10 to give more time for those who want to travel to the church for in-person worship.

One reader pointed out that Bass claims progressive Christians suffer “spiritual amnesia” because they have rejected church traditions understood through a “Big-C” story (Christ, Constantine, Christendom, Calvin, and Christian America), and that Bass tells another story— “generative” Christianity—based on the great command to love God and neighbor (Luke 10:25-27). Her history affirms different values from the conflict and conquest of the “Big C” story. It is “a kind of faith that births new possibilities of God’s love into the world.”

Another reader says Bass paints a picture of the goodness of Christian practice and thought through two millennia, providing glimpses, anecdotes and quotes from the Christianity that was, could have been and could still be.

A third reader says the book is short and easy to digest by a nonacademic reader, which is precisely the point of a people's history.

The book is available used from Amazon for as little as \$3.59 hardback and \$2 paperback (plus shipping) and from other online vendors, such as Alibris.com and AbeBooks.com for competitive prices. Paper Trail may be able to get copies fairly quickly as can Richard Lindeborg. Order the first week of August to be safe.

Weekly reading assignments:

Aug. 22, Introduction, pp. 1-20	Oct. 3, Chapters 7 and 8, pp. 151-180
Aug. 29, Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 21-58	Oct. 10, Chapter 9, pp. 181-210
Sept. 5, No class. Labor Day Weekend	Oct. 17 Chapters 10 and 11, pp. 211-246
Sept. 12, Chapter 3, pp. 59-84	
Sept. 19, Chapters 4 and 5, pp. 85-120	Oct. 24, Chapter 12, pp. 247-284
Sept. 26, Chapter 6, pp. 121-150	October 31, Chapter 13 and Epilogue, pp. 285-310

Why do members of the Mission & Peacemaking (M&P) Committee urge us to pray for U.S. and Mexico border communities?



Our church has a long history of mission to the U.S. and Mexico border to help us understand and support people in border communities who are dealing with issues of poverty, violence, displacement and migration in the face of ever-increasing restrictive U.S. immigration policy. Early mission trips saw church members like Dr. Bunch organizing groups to do medical clinics in Juarez and setting up a mission trip fund. Later trips supported by this fund saw members like Carol Linder involving our church youth to do a “Vacation Bible School” out of the back of a couple vans in some of the poorest areas of Juarez.

Our church has also supported the LIFT (Living in Faith Together) ecumenical, now interfaith, student organization in traveling to Douglas, AZ/Agua Prieta, Sonora Mexico to experience the border and have meaningful encounters with the people there through Frontera de Cristo, one of five binational border ministries of the Presbyterian Border Region Outreach (PBRO.)

To give you a sense of the current situation, we want to share an excerpt from a letter from Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar, our PC-USA Mission co-workers serving at the Mexico and U.S. border through Frontera de Cristo.

“2020 was the deadliest year this century for persons crossing the U.S./Mexico border seeking opportunities that many of our ancestors sought, and 2021 may be even deadlier. Many of the persons coming north are now from the Central American countries. Last week Vice President Harris visited Guatemala and waved her hand, saying, “DO NOT COME” to those ravaged by the poverty caused by extractive trade policies that favor the U.S. or by natural disasters or other climate changes. She said, “DO NOT COME” to those who are facing extreme violence. The torch of Lady Liberty that symbolizes our nation as a nation of refuge has been obscured by 18- and 30-foot steel barriers draped in concertina wire, with DANGER DO NOT ENTER signs plastered on both sides.”

You can find their complete letter here: https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/presente/?fbclid=IwAR2KCswZprRKbUmXo3lcFAqhRNcK_ghKd3QnhGE9G0fGXbP1BV2XcXuBqHM

and more information on the mission work of Mark and Miriam through Frontera de Cristo and the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) on their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/348423356411/posts/10160260867941412/>

In the fall of 2019 several members of the M&P Committee traveled to El Paso for a Border Immersion Program with Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey to learn more as the immigration/asylum seeker situation at the border became more concerning. What we experienced we brought back and shared at a forum held by the Understanding Immigration Task Force, a community group that for the last year has been suspended due to the group meeting restrictions under Covid. Because of the relationships we have built we care a great deal about what happens to the people, their struggles, and their hopes for a brighter future.

As we learned during the Border Immersion with Cristo Rey in 2019, U.S. immigration policies were already badly in need of reform with legal means of seeking remedy in some cases extending beyond a person’s lifetime. Add to that Title 42, a Trump era pandemic policy, which has been continued under the Biden administration. Title 42 has been declared by United Nations officials as unlawful because it denies protection to asylum seekers. Migrants who have heard of or been expelled under Title 42 are willing to risk their lives by choosing to take dangerous routes to enter the US avoiding ports of entry and border patrol. It is unconscionable that right now, all sorts of folks are crossing back and forth across the border as their lives and livelihood demands. With Title 42 in place, people seeking asylum in the U.S. are being summarily refused entry. Read this article for a clearer understanding of the ramifications of continuing this policy. <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/politics/story/2021-03-19/a-year-of-title-42-both-trump-and-biden-have-kept-the-border-closed-and-cut-off-asylum-access>

When Mission and Peacemaking prays for immigration reform, for our leaders to lead with compassion, for the safety of migrants and mission workers, we also know that we are the hands and feet of God. Our prayers can seem to become a personal call to action for us—each of us. Such prayers can feel uncomfortable if we think we must go to the border to help. However, we can help in many ways—with prayers, gifts, learning more, sharing information and speaking out. Certainly, there is much to do and perhaps we must continue to listen for God’s direction. In the meantime, please keep praying with us for all at the border.

— Mission and Peacemaking Committee



ONLINE GIVING REMINDER

If you are using our online giving process, please check the “end date” of your automatic payments. And thanks for giving so generously this year. Contact the church office if you have any questions.



If you are not on the email distribution list for our Sunday Online Worship bulletin and would like to be, please send an [email](#) to the church office requesting that your name/email be added. The bulletin is emailed on Friday for the service along with a message from Pastor Katie.



REMEMBER: Coffee with Katie happens Tuesday mornings around 8:30 at Charlie's. Join Katie and whoever else stops by for a bite of breakfast or just a cup of coffee or tea and good conversation.



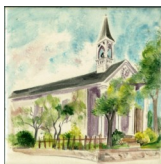
TO JOIN ANY FUPC EVENTS VIA ZOOM



You are now welcome to worship in the sanctuary, but if you would like to continue worshipping online, here are the instructions to access Zoom:

- The easiest way to join worship or other FUPC public events is simply to go to our website (lvpresbyterian.org) and click on the “Join Us on Zoom” link.
- You can also open your web browser and go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081>. If you haven't been on Zoom before, you'll see instructions for downloading the Zoom app and allowing your camera (if you have one) and microphone to be used by Zoom, and then the meeting will open.
- If you are new to Zoom, we recommend going to the link above a few minutes before the event so that you can get the Zoom app set up ahead of time.
- If you don't have a computer but want **to join by phone, call 312-626-7699** and enter the meeting ID number (573-920-0081) when prompted. Please note this is a Chicago number, so if your phone plan does not have unlimited calls, you may incur long-distance charges.
- For Zoom committee meetings and other non-public meetings, you'll receive a link from your committee chair.

1000 Douglas Avenue
PO Box 37
Las Vegas NM 87701
505-425-7763



Website: www.lvpresbyterian.org

Facebook: Las Vegas First United Presbyterian (NM)

Email: fupc.nm@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Bible Based Study via Zoom

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship via Zoom

Fellowship Hour following the worship service on Zoom



Our Daily Devotionals

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Thursday – Pat Halverson

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Samaritan House Food Donations

AUGUST 2021

Dry milk, Oatmeal (other dry cereals)
Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



1st	Crystal Western Ford	29th	Celina Trujillo
3rd	Rustie Mountjoy	30th	Linda Solyntjes
4th	Carolina (Carly) Trujillo	31st	Ruth Hazelton
6th	Renate Rendon		
10th	Jeff Salman		
12th	Van Swan		
24th	Mary Schipper		
26th	Shirley Sandoval		