



Sharing the Love of Christ

First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

PO Box 37

1000 Douglas Avenue

Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

NOVEMBER 2021

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

D.R. and I recently returned home from a couple of weeks away. We started our time of study leave and vacation by attending a concert of Denver's Kantorei—a wonderful choral ensemble in which our daughter Tegan sings. The concert, called *Vox Femina*, featured contemporary women composers' works. It was a perfect way to begin my week of study leave, during which I did a lot of reading that had stacked up in my "to read when I have time" pile. I read mostly from magazines—especially *The Presbyterian Outlook* and *Christianity Today*. Some issues I absorbed and then recycled; others I clipped things from—poems and particularly relevant articles. I kept a long list of books from book reviews that are now labeled "to read when I have time." And I held onto a few special issues that are especially relevant to all of us as we prepare for our time of renewal next year. You'll be hearing about those in the coming months!



Our vacation week took us to my home town of Leavenworth, Kansas. I had been there only once since my mother died in 2002, and that visit was a brief one. It was good to spend a few days there. Of course, we enjoyed time with my siblings and my nieces who accompanied my brother on his trip there from Texas. But I also really enjoyed seeing my home town from a different perspective, which I think I was able to do in part because of my last few years in Las Vegas. The first city established in Kansas, Leavenworth has a beauty I didn't fully appreciate when I was growing up there. When I was a kid, I seldom spent time on the street that runs along the Missouri River on the east side of town, but our hotel was just a short walk to the river walk that didn't exist when I lived there. It's a lovely walkway, partly along the river and partly along Three-Mile Creek, which empties into the river. I enjoyed the old, tree-lined streets with their gorgeous stately houses in an entirely different way than I ever had before.

My siblings and I also took trips down our different memory lanes, my brother Jim and sister Carol exploring the places where they had lived and spent time. But since they are 20 and 16 years older than I, respectively, their memory lane is different from mine. D.R. and I checked out the houses I had lived in and drove by the schools I had attended. My elementary school is no longer a public school; it is now a church with an attached academy. My junior high school has been torn down; the space is now a parking lot for the Methodist church that was next door to it. My high school is where it always was (Carol's was the first full class to graduate from that high school), but is much changed. Whereas I marched with the band on a football field across town, the school now has a full sports complex behind it and a performing arts center in one of the buildings. Things change, don't they?

Having learned so much about the importance of history during my time in Las Vegas allowed me to better appreciate the history of my home town that was lost on me when I was young. During my next visit to Leavenworth when I am on sabbatical, I will explore more of that history. Seeing all the changes made me think about the importance of change—not for its own sake, but to keep things vibrant and relevant. These were good lessons for me as I begin to prepare more intentionally for my 2022 sabbatical and as we as a faith community begin to plan for a time of congregational renewal next year. As our proposal for our time of renewal expresses, it is always good to see what tracks those who have gone before us have made and to consider the changes necessary for us to leave the tracks we want to leave as we look to the future. What an exciting time for all of us!

With thanks for all of you,

Pastor Katie

CONNECT WITH PASTOR KATIE!

Coffee with Katie – 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays via Zoom

Friend me on Facebook! Search for “Katie Palmer” and look for a picture of me! If you send a friend request, please let me know you’ve done so. I’ve gotten many “fake” requests from people posing as folks I know.

Plan a visit! I’d love to visit with you one-on-one in your home or over tea. Let me know if you’d like to schedule a visit.



ONLINE GIVING REMINDER

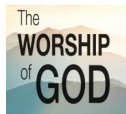
If you are using our online giving process, please check the “end date” of your automatic payments. And thanks for giving so generously this year. Contact the church office if you have any questions.



If you are not on the email distribution list for our Sunday Online Worship bulletin and would like to be, please send an email, (fupc.nm@gmail.com) 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 has moved back to Zoom because of the surge in COVID cases. Join us on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on the regular worship link!



WORSHIP TIDBITS



For the next few weeks, we will continue to explore some Hebrew Bible stories to learn what they can teach us about the many gifts God gives to God's people. Specifically, we'll be looking at:

November 7 – 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13; John 2:19-21;

November 14 – Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24; John 7:37-38; and

November 21 – Isaiah 9:1-7; John 8:12.

What a great way to remember, during this month of Thanksgiving, how thankful we are for all the many ways God gifts us!

And, as hard as it is to believe, we enter into the season of Advent at the end of this month! During Advent, we will open ourselves to "Be Filled and Spring Forth." Our readings will encourage us to heed God's Word through the prophets about how God's people are to live and through the gospel story of Jesus' life in the book of John. Readings for Advent are:

November 28 – Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

December 5 – Ezekiel 37:1-14

December 12 - Isaiah 55:1-13

December 19 – John 1:1-18



HYBRID IN NOVEMBER

The Re-Entry Task Force met recently and, looking at the downward trend in COVID cases in San Miguel County and the high vaccination rate among our church family members, decided to return to hybrid worship in November. This means that, if you'd like to worship in the sanctuary, you're welcome to do so. If you're more comfortable continuing to worship online, you are welcome to zoom in. Those worshipping in the sanctuary will be required to wear masks and socially distance between family groups. We'll also keep a contact tracing list. We look forward to seeing you—in the sanctuary or online—starting November 7!

DEVOTIONALS



REMEMBER WEEKLY WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONALS!

Pastor Katie (1st Wednesdays), Rod Billingsley (2nd Wednesdays), Pat Halverson (3rd and 5th Wednesdays) and Karyl Lyne (4th Wednesdays). You will continue to find devotionals on the FUPC Facebook page or by clicking on the “devotionals” link under “Latest News” on our website at lvpresbyterian.org.

PROJECTS BENEFIT SAMARITAN HOUSE CLIENTS AND SOUP KITCHENS

Community Life is excited to invite you to participate in two projects for November.

Gratitude for items we usually take for granted. We invite you to participate in a special collection for Samaritan House. Starting Nov. 1, we will be collecting packages of men’s underwear, t-shirts, and socks in sizes medium and large. When clients come in to shower at Samaritan House, it is nice for them to get new undergarments to put on. There will be a collection box right inside the door of the East Wing of the church for you to drop off your contribution, or we will be happy to come pick them up from you. Call Pam at 505-429-3053 to arrange a pickup. We will deliver everything to Samaritan House right before Thanksgiving.



Special Christmas Tree Project. Community Life has decided to participate in the 2021 holiday Christmas Tree Cash Mob to benefit Las Vegas soup kitchens. We will be decorating two trees – one representing FUPC and one representing the Unity Orchard. Join us on Nov. 11 in Perea Hall at 9:30 a.m., to have some fun making decorations and decorating our trees. If you have questions, call Pam at 505-429-3053.

Here is some for information about this Community Project designed to increase holiday traffic to businesses in the Bridge Street/Plaza area and benefit our soup kitchens.

WHO: Any Las Vegas business or non-profit organization

WHAT: Donate a fully decorated artificial Christmas tree not to exceed 3 feet high

WHEN: Deliver to the Plaza Hotel Tues-Thurs, Nov. 16-18, 4-6 p.m.

WHERE: Trees will be on display Nov. 20-Dec. 15 in the Plaza Library and/or Ballroom Foyer window for public viewing.

WHY: Fundraiser for LV soup kitchens.

HOW: Trees will be auctioned during a Cash Mob, Wednesday, Dec. 15. Unsold trees will be donated to Vida Encantada, Alta Vista Regional Hospital, Behavioral Health Institute, Las Vegas Senior Center, etc.

–Pam Abreu
Community Life



Short but sweet! Class will discuss John Donne's Holy Sonnets in November

The Holy Sonnets are 19 poems written by Donne (1572–1631) between 1609 and 1617, according to some sources. Donne is considered the preeminent representative of the metaphysical poets. As a few readers have written:

“These are metaphysical poems that deal with divine love, death, penance, his own grievances, and obviously mystical devotion to the trinity.”

John Donne: Holy Sonnet 10

*Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those, whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy picture[s] be,
Much pleasure, then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou'rt slave to Fate, chance, kings, and desperate
men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy, or charms can make us sleep as well,
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And Death shall be no more, Death, thou shalt die.”*

“These are amazing, life-changing poems—not only the most famous ones such as the one beginning ‘Death be not proud’, or ‘Batter my heart, three-person’d God’ but also the less well-known ones.”

“One cannot rush through poetry, there is a quieting of the heart that must take place to receive it, and that quiet place is connected with the Lord Jesus, and the Bible as His word. John Donne, while not a (divinely inspired) writer of scripture, captures the struggles and mysteries of the Christian life in a compelling manner. When I can savor these Sonnets, they are a blessing and refreshment. I'm glad I set aside time to read just one per sitting and think about it.”

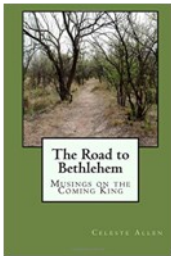
Many phrases from the poems have been appropriated and are well remembered as parts of popular culture. They are characterized by innovative rhythm and imagery and constitute a forceful, immediate, personal, and passionate examination of Donne's love for God.

This discussion series will run from Nov. 7 - 21. Free copies of the poems will be provided. Request them from Richard Lindeborg (ralindeborg@cs.com).

Reading Assignments: Nov 6—Sonnets 1-6 ; Nov 14—Sonnets 7-12; Nov 21—Sonnets 13-19

Advent Series: The Road to Bethlehem

This year's Advent Series, starting Nov. 28, will be discussion of *The Road to Bethlehem: Musings on the Coming King*, by Celest Allen, a writer, retreat leader, and the host of a retreat house in Italy.



Allen spent 20 years working in corporate America before moving into full-time Christian ministry in the United Kingdom. She has taught English in China and Mongolia, led retreats in the US, UK, and Italy, and been a presenter at conferences in the US, Europe, and as far afield as Thailand and Turkey. Her passion is to help people connect with God through all their senses.

The weeks leading up to Christmas can gallop by with little or no thought given to the original events and meaning of the season. But Advent need not be solely a blur of yuletide frenzy. These 25 meditations range from the personal to the universal, bringing to life the Advent narrative.

Richard Lindeborg will be leading the discussion, which will be from 9 to 10 a.m. on the same zoom channel as our worship service.

The book is available used for as little as \$4.88 in paperback (plus shipping) from online vendors. Paper Trail may also be able to order a copy, as can Richard Lindeborg.

Reading Assignments:

Nov. 28 Preface and Meditations 1-6 Dec. 5 Meditations 7-13	Dec 12 Meditations 14-19 Dec 19 Meditations 20-25
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TIME • TREASURE • TALENT: Stewardship

Ever wonder how the Session decides how best to use our monetary giving from family and friends to further God's work? All are welcome to attend the annual budget meeting on **Dec. 4 at 9:00 AM**. Mark your calendar now and plan on Zooming in using the Sunday morning link.

Each year we make difficult decisions about how to best use our resources. We would love to hear from you. What are you most passionate about? Please share. While a large portion of our annual budget supports our incredibly talented pastor, staff, and our physical plant, committees creatively find ways to grow faith, seek justice, and build community.

Please feel free to reach out to a committee chair if you have ideas or suggestions as we plan for 2022 and beyond:

Buildings and Grounds: Corky Halverson

Columbarium: Judy Long and Tom Trigg

Community Life: Pam Abreu

Deacons: Mary Schipper

Joint Operating Team at the Old Town Mission: Tom Trigg and DR Palmer

Mission and Peacemaking: Carol Litherland

Mustard Seed: Corky Halverson and Carol Linder

Personnel: Judy Long

Time Treasures and Talents: Carol Linder

Worship and Music: DR Palmer

Do you have an idea?



The Session is once again asking your input into how we spend undesignated gifts to our church. If you have an idea that would support growing our faith, seeking justice, or building community, please let us know. Send a brief description of your idea, why the Session should fund it, and a budget (small or large!) to Carol Linder (carollinder@msn.com). Requests are welcome throughout the year. Session will make a prioritized list of suggestions and will determine what we are able to fund.

Trustees

Your trustees have been busy! In addition to trying to get the new SimpliSafe alarm system up and running (we are still working on that!), we are reviewing our Vanguard investments, and conducting our annual review of our insurance policies to make sure we are appropriately covered.

–Carol Linder

PRESBYTERY ANNUAL MEETING

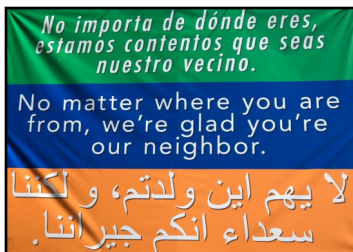
The Presbytery of Santa Fe had its annual meeting on Saturday, Oct. 16, online. As always, the purpose of the meeting was to hear annual reports, approve motions from commissions and committees of the Presbytery; clarify language in the Presbytery Bylaws; elect and install Presbytery leadership; welcome new ministers, celebrate the service of ministers and commissioned pastors; and worship as the body of Christ. Because I have been FUPC's commissioner in the past and have attended a number of meetings, it was fun to see familiar faces and catch up with the work of the Presbytery. Eighty-nine Commissioners, and Ministers of Word and Sacrament (pastors) attended the meeting.

Luke Rembold, who preached at FUPC this summer and is the Youth and Young Adult Volunteers Program Coordinator, introduced the 2021 YAVs, who will work at agencies in Albuquerque as they discern their personal calls to ministry this year. He shared that Triennium will be held at Purdue University in Indianapolis in summer 2022 for church youth. Long-awaited provisions in the Standing Rules of the Presbytery for electronic meetings, quorum and voting procedures were presented; and will probably be used by the churches as a model for their standing rules. Presbytery Stated Clerk Stephen Rhoades reported that there were a number of Session Records Reviews yet to be completed. I was pleased and grateful that our Session Records had been reviewed by Rudy Laumbach, a past FUPC Clerk of Session, last spring and passed with high marks! Thanks, Rudy. Many of you are familiar with Camino de Vida, Rev. Guillermo Yela and their amazing ecumenical ministry to the huge immigrant population in the South Valley of Albuquerque, sponsored by ELCA and the Presbytery of Santa Fe. ELCA is currently restructuring, and their support of Camino will end, so the Presbytery has created an Administrative and Advocacy Commission to help discern future directions and support for Camino. That ministry continues to be very successful, reaching out to newcomers to this country, including the 300 Afghans arriving in Albuquerque now.

Many of you know Nelson Capitan from Laguna Pueblo and former Moderator of the Santa Fe Presbytery. Nelson is the Moderator-Elect of the Synod of the Southwest made up of the Presbyteries of Santa Fe and Sierra Blanca in New Mexico; and the Presbyteries de Christo and Grand Canyon in Arizona. Nelson reported on the work of nearly 100 volunteers who delivered 175,000 pounds of food over a five-month period to 200 families in the Navajo Nation, who were particularly hard hit by the pandemic. As the meeting closed with a wonderful worship service, I found myself listening to the familiar voices of DR, Christie and me singing the hymns, having forgotten that Katie had provided recordings from FUPC for that service. As you can tell, the Presbytery of Santa Fe is hard at work serving its people in the name of God.

—Karyl Lyne, FUPC Presbytery Commissioner

MISSION & PEACEMAKING



Mission & Peacemaking is excited to announce that once again our Christmas-in-July church family's giving to purchase a Garden Well from the PCUSA Giving Catalogue has amazed us, exceeding even last year's giving, which supported a well and a quarter for communities in need of a source of fresh water. The total given this year, \$2,705, again is enough to cover a well and a sizeable portion, 80 percent, of another well. We also want to update you on a couple other special offerings our church family so generously supported. The Pentecost offering portion that stayed here (\$256) went to support local at-risk youth through our local Big Brothers Big

Sisters organization. You can visit their website at www.bbbsmountainregion.org and watch short videos where Bigs and Littles share the impact of BBBS on their lives. The Peace & Global Witness offering also wrapped up recently on World Communion Sunday. If you have ideas for what we can do with the 25 percent that stays here (\$75) please share your suggestion with the members of M&P. Thanks to all of you who made these gifts, and thanks for being such a blessing to so many.

Climate crisis at forefront of agenda for Parliament of the World's Religions

by Nidhi Upadhyaya, Religion News Service



The Parliament of the World's Religions, a gathering of religious leaders from around the world, concluded its eighth convening Oct. 18. With a central theme of “Opening Our Hearts to the World: Compassion in Action,” the virtual event’s presenters spoke on interfaith understanding, religious prejudice, gender equality and healing in difficult times. But amid musical performances and spiritual blessings, the recurring theme of the three-day interfaith event was climate change.

The gathering was the first virtual convening in the 128-year history of the event. With a goal of fostering dialogue and cooperation across global religious groups, the Parliament of the World's Religions was first hosted at the world's fair in Chicago in 1893 and has often been considered the birthplace of today's interfaith movement. Since its inception the group has hosted eight convenings, gathering religious leaders from around the world to explore ways they can collectively address global issues.

Pella Thiel, chairperson of End Ecocide Sweden, and Henrik Grape, senior adviser on care for creation, sustainability and climate justice for the World Council of Churches, said in a talk Sunday that they are working on a proposal to make mass damage to nature — or ecocide — a crime against humanity that could be prosecuted by the U.N.'s International Court of Justice.

The Islamic Society of North America discussed its own green initiative, which includes promoting “Green Ramadan” to reduce waste and creating masjids that follow green architecture guidelines.

Susannah Tuttle, director of the North Carolina Council of Churches' Eco-Justice program, described the devastation in coastal nations and insisted people of faith must raise the issues of loss, damage and financial aid for those suffering from climate-related disasters.

Experts in Hinduism and Jainism spoke about the positive impact of veganism and vegetarianism on the environment. The Rev. Charlotte Bear, a chaplain with Circle Sanctuary, gave insight into climate feminism. Citing a recent U.N. report, she noted climate change has disproportionately impacted women and girls — resulting in increased risks to safety and socioeconomic vulnerabilities.

Celebrating Thanksgiving 2021



The holiday season will soon be upon us and I'm reminded of the word “gratitude” this year. According to an Aug. 14 article from *Harvard Health Publishing*, research suggests that one aspect of the Thanksgiving season can actually lift the spirits and it's built right into the holiday – being grateful.

****Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives.**

There is a relatively new field in psychology called positive psychology. Most of the research about gratitude has been completed by Dr. Robert A. Emmons of the University of California, Davis and Dr. Michael E. McCullough of the University of Miami. ****Most of the studies indicate that there is an association between gratitude and an individual's well-being.**

Here are some ways to cultivate gratitude on a regular basis:

1. Write thank you letters or e-mails expressing your enjoyment and appreciation of a person's impact on your life. Consider writing one gratitude letter a month. Don't forget to include yourself in your list.
2. Keep a gratitude journal. I've often found that it helps me to sit down and write three things I'm grateful for on a slip of paper or in a journal.

Thank you for reading this newsletter article.

(* *Harvard Health Publishing, August 14, 2021*)



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:

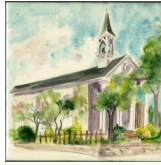
- The easiest way to join worship or other FUPC public events is simply to go to our website (lvpresbyterian.org) and click on the “Join Us on Zoom” link.
- You can also open your web browser and go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081>. If you haven’t been on Zoom before, you’ll see instructions 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.



NEW LOOK IN COLUMBARIUM COURTYARD

Since the old flagstone was crumbling and dangerous, we have redone the courtyard. No more stairs and it looks fabulous. Work designed and executed by Michael Long General Contractor, paid for with generous donations from two individuals, some money from Building and Grounds, and the remainder from the Columbarium fund. When we reopen the church come and see the new upgrade.

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



Samaritan House Food Donations

NOVEMBER 2021

Pasta and Sauce

Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



6th	Maridell Monnheimer	27th	Katie Palmer
7th	Christina Litherland	30th	Karen Topping
18th	Nicoletta (Nicky) Litherland		
	Theresa M. DeHerrera		