



Sharing the Love of Christ

First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

PO Box 37

1000 Douglas Avenue

Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

OCTOBER 2021

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

Fall really is in the air! We no longer use our whole house fan at night and, most nights, we leave our bedroom window closed. It's getting chilly out there! I saw a meme recently that praised autumn by declaring, from an unknown author, "The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let things go." This declaration left me imagining the beautiful gold of aspen leaves chanting in the breeze before they fall and the brilliant orange-red of a maple leaf twirling in the wind as it falls to the ground. The trees do let go in a lovely way. I hope the season will prompt all of us to think about how we might let go of the things that burden us unnecessarily. Maybe it's a resentment against someone or a worry that serves no purpose. Maybe it's a pile of stuff that does nothing but clutter our living space. Then, when we decide to drop those things, let's see our action like a falling leaf that will twirl to the ground and nurture the soil that feeds us.

On another note, I recently got sick. I spent a few days feeling miserable, trying to function while feeling dizzy and over-tired. Finally, I went to Urgent Care, where my self-diagnosis of a sinus and ear infection was confirmed. I was prescribed a round of antibiotics and now am feeling almost back to my normal self. But being sick with this infection I knew would clear up after those antibiotics started circulating in my system made me think of the folks hospitalized with COVID who don't know whether their treatment will be effective. As I write this, there are about 80,000 people in U.S. hospitals with COVID. The number of hospitalizations among children under 11 has increased. Please continue to pray for those who are infected with the virus and to encourage anyone you know who has not yet been vaccinated to get the vaccine.

I also spent time during my illness thinking about folks who don't have easy access to the medicines they need, both in poverty-stricken areas around the world and among the poor and uninsured here. I encourage those of us who can visit a doctor, fill a prescription, or be admitted to a hospital without worry that it will cost us a job or mean we can't make rent or put food on our tables to express our gratitude for what we have and to work for a system that respects all of God's people with equal access to healthcare for both physical and mental illness and injury.

Take care, everyone! Get those booster vaccines if you're eligible and get your flu shot. And thank God for the people in our health care systems who work to develop and deliver life-saving medicines.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

CONNECT WITH PASTOR KATIE!

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

Note: No Coffee with Katie on October 12 or 19

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!

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★ **ZOOMING IN OCTOBER** ★

★ The Re-Entry Task Force recently met to discuss whether it is safe for us to return to worship in the sanctuary. We all agreed that the numbers are still too high for us to be comfortable returning to in-person worship. Therefore, we will remain in Zoom-only mode through October, and will assess the situation at the end of the month. We would love to be able to return to our hybrid worship format, but don't want to endanger anyone's health. Stay tuned; we'll update you at the end of the month. Thank you for your understanding.

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WORSHIP TIDBITS

Our worship theme from September 12 – October 3, “God is [T]here,” gave us several opportunities to see God’s faithfulness to God’s people, as well as the opportunity to mark on our world maps where we have seen God’s presence. I hope you took to heart the suggestion to see the many places where God has been present with you and where in the world God’s presence needs the help of our action to serve people. I invite you to put some of your “God encounters” on the church Facebook page. Ruth Hazelton, who now lives in Montana, was pleased to take part in our exploration of God’s presence with us and sent us her notes. I shared a couple of these in worship; here are a couple more:

Kalispell, Montana – Listened to Pastor Miriam speak at our church about her ministry to skateboarders in Kalispell, near Glacier Park.

Our Hamilton (MT) church here supports Tom Logan’s water well ministry in Malawi. I brought that contact with me when I left Las Vegas!

I am editing memoirs for a former missionary colleague who served in Guatemala with pastor husband, Tom. Some will remember their visit in Las Vegas! Her parents were missionaries in China, so Grace grew up there.

Beginning Oct. 24, we will visit several Hebrew Bible characters to learn about the gifts God so abundantly gave to them. Lectionary Scriptures for this series on Gifts from God are:

Oct. 24 – Exodus 16:1-18; John 6:51

Oct. 31 – 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14; John 7:24

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

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

Nov. 21 – Isaiah 9:1-7; John 8:12

zoom



TO JOIN ANY FUPC EVENTS VIA ZOOM

To join our online worship services, 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.



DEVOTIONALS

Many thanks to all of those who have recorded devotionals since March of 2020. As we move forward, we will continue to bring you devotionals, but we are moving to a schedule that is a little less demanding to those folks who have prepared devotionals for every weekday for over a year and a half! We'll move to a weekly Wednesday devotional, with devotionals offered each week by 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.



What's Happening at the Old Town Mission Community Center

On Oct. 16, pandemic permitting, OTM will be the site of this year's Annual Meeting of the Menaul Historical Library. Members will gather in the building Jose Ynez Perea helped to establish. Rev. Randy Campbell (H.R.) will be in character as Rev. Perea at the event.

The old concrete outside the main entrance from the parking lot has already been removed and the shed has been shifted to accommodate future roof improvements. This is part of our long-range construction planning which includes improving the drainage off the parking lot, a new roof over the kitchen area and an enlarged porch roof over the entrance door complete with carved columns.

The security system is partially in place with the remainder coming soon. When we have completed installation, we will be able to open and close, arm and disarm and see who is around the building all wirelessly on our computers/phones. As part of this security upgrade, we plan to create a secure enclosure in which to store our more valuable equipment.

Our newest JOT member and OTM next door neighbor, Irene Encinias, planned and implemented a benefit yard sale in the Center's parking lot on Sept. 24 and 25. Tom and D.R. want to thank everyone who donated items and attended the sale. Irene pre-sold several items which brought in over \$450. Thanks especially for generous donations of high-end bicycles from Beth Urech and Bob and Carrol Pearson as well as items from several local businesses. These are to be raffled off adding to whatever we collect at the sale itself. Will this become an annual event? Stay tuned!



Classes for Adults and Youth: Fall and On into Advent

During October, the Sunday morning Bible-based class for adults and youth will move on to the Reformation and modern Christianity in its discussion of Diana Butler Bass's book *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story*. The class is still on Zoom and is now at 9 a.m. instead of 9:15, ending soon after 10 o'clock.

Bass reveals an alternate history that includes a deep social ethic and far-reaching inclusivity. The book authenticates the vital, emerging Christian movements of our time, providing the historical evidence that celebrates these movements as thoroughly Christian and faithful to the mission and message of Jesus.

The book is available used for as little as \$2 in paperback (plus shipping) from online vendors. Richard Lindeborg can also order copies.

The reading assignments are:

Oct. 3, Chapters 7 and 8, pp. 151-180, "Christianity as Living Words" and "Speaking of Faith"

Oct. 10, Chapter 9, pp. 181-210, "Walking the Talk"

Oct. 17 Chapters 10 and 11, pp. 211-246, "Christianity as a Quest for the Truth" and "The Quest for Light"

Oct. 24, Chapter 12, pp. 247-284, "Kingdom Quest"

October 31, Chapter 13 and Epilogue, pp. 285-310, "The River"

John Donne's Holy Sonnets in November - The Holy Sonnets, also called Divine Meditations or Divine Sonnets are described by Britannica as a series of 19 devotional poems published in 1633. The poems are characterized by innovative rhythm and imagery and constitute a forceful, immediate, personal, and passionate examination of Donne's love for God, depicting his doubts, fears, and sense of spiritual unworthiness.

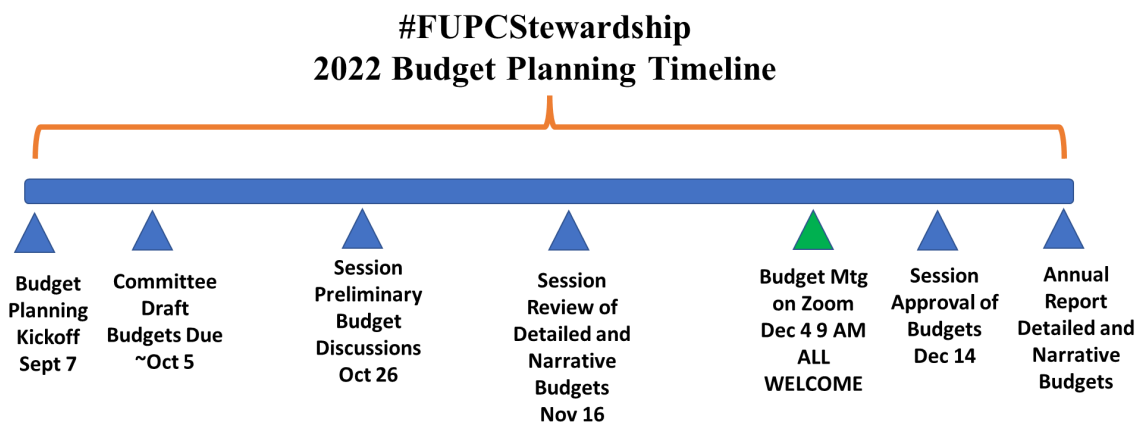
Among the best-known verses of the series are "Thou hast made me," "I am a little world," "At the round earth's imagined corners," "If poisonous minerals," "Death, be not proud," "Batter my heart," and "Show me, dear Christ." Many phrases from the poems have been appropriated and are well remembered as parts of popular culture. This discussion series will run from November 7 through 21. Free copies of the poems will be provided. Request them from Richard Lindeborg (ralindeborg@cs.com).

The Road to Bethlehem in Advent - This year's Advent Series, starting Nov. 28, will be discussion of *The Road to Bethlehem: Musings on the Coming King*, a set of 25 meditations ranging from the personal to the universal by Celeste Allen. Allen is a writer, retreat leader, and the host of a retreat house in Italy. The book is available used for as little as \$4.88 in paperback (plus shipping) from online vendors. Richard Lindeborg can also order copies.

FUPC STEWARDSHIP

Our 2022 budget planning is underway with a new treasurer, office manager, and Time, Treasure, and Talent chair! Thankfully, there are many seasoned planners who are assisting us!

Annual giving from members and friends, while strong throughout the first year of the pandemic, has seen significant declines in 2021. These declines are not completely unexpected with the loss of several members and the economic challenges faced by many in our church family. Thankfully, our expenses have been less than anticipated because of the continued COVID restrictions. If you can increase your giving in 2021 or 2022, this will help ensure that we are able to continue our work as a Matthew 25 congregation. Thankfully, planned bequest giving continues to support the vital mission of our church.



Your continued generous support is needed to

Grow Faith by

- providing spiritually engaging worship
- offering educational opportunities to learn more about our faith and our role in today's world
- engaging lay leaders in planning and leading worship
- lifting voices and hands in song
- living and giving intentionally
- gathering for renewal and visioning

Seek Justice by

- building congregational vitality, eradicating systemic poverty, and dismantling structural racism as a PC(USA) Matthew 25 Church
- working for social justice in public policy as an ELCA (Lutheran) Advocacy Church
- striving to end world hunger and food insecurity through leading community engagement
- succoring victims of injustice through letter writing, education, and advocacy
- housing the Las Vegas Peace and Justice Center

Build Community by

- creating ways to meet, learn, work, and play at the Old Town Mission Community Center
- preparing meals for Samaritan House
- leading the Unity Orchard project
- awarding Mustard Seed grants
- hosting small group gathering
- supporting local soup kitchens
- supporting PCUSA national offerings
- participating in Presbytery and Synod activities



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.

Family Caregiving 101

We are all caregivers in one form or another, but we most often think of this role as it applies to aging family members. If we choose to be that family member who takes on this role, and our aging loved one agrees, it can be rewarding and joyful. It can also take the starch right out of you over the long haul. You learn in the course of care that you can't do it all. You will want to step back and consider what will be best for your loved one and for you as a primary caregiver.

Which is where other help comes in. Knowing where to access additional help isn't always easy, but worth the effort.

Who you're looking for:

Professional: These caregivers may provide medical or non-medical care in a home setting or facility. Their goal is to help clients live as independently as possible and are employed by an agency. This type of care is recommended most often when skilled nursing is needed. Check with your insurance provider about coverage.

Independent: An independent caregiver is employed directly by the family. The types of care provided will be determined by the client's needs.

Private: These individuals provide a broad range of services, from medical and nursing care to bill paying and transportation services. Their goal is to provide whatever the senior and their family needs for them to remain independent in their own homes. Private caregivers may work independently or through third-party agencies. Check with your insurance provider about coverage.

Informal: These individuals may be a family friend or neighbor who provides care to someone with whom they have a personal – but not familial – relationship. These caregivers are typically called upon to stay with the senior so the primary caregiver may run errands, go to doctor appointments, or have respite time.

Volunteer: These caregivers typically work in respite or hospice care, to provide breaks for the primary caregiver, non-medical companionship, and supervision for the client. And having a friendly face and a change of pace for the client is always a good thing!

Every situation is different, and every caregiving need requires evaluation before making decisions or changes, which is why involving the person in need of care and the caregivers in the conversation is essential.

(Information taken from www.griswoldhomecare.com website)



Please join or donate to our FUPC LV CROP Hunger Walk Team

FUPC TEAM Goal: \$1500 (*we have raised \$500 as of September 30*)

Las Vegas CROP Hunger Walk Goal: \$15,000 (*we have raised \$3,930 as of September 30: \$1,395 in sponsorships and \$2,535 from individual donations on the web*)

25% of money raised will support local organizations working to end hunger in the Las Vegas Community while the remaining funds support ending hunger worldwide.

Follow these five easy steps:

STEP 1: Register and/or donate to the FUPC team by clicking on the link below

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/first-united-presbyterian-church-las-vegas>

STEP 2: If you are on Facebook, consider creating a Facebook fundraiser. Facebook fundraisers raise almost 4X more money to end hunger!

STEP 3: Plan a day, time, place, and mode that is convenient for you or small group during October. You can walk, ride, hike, bike, swim, or row!

STEP 4: JOIN THE CELEBRATION: Sat, Oct. 30 @10 am in a WALK – Lincoln Park to the Plaza (contingent on COVID restrictions) to visit our recipient agencies: Samaritan House, Las Vegas Community Soup Kitchen, & *Come-dor de San Pascual* Soup Kitchen.

STEP 5: Post photos on the Las Vegas CROP Hunger Walk Facebook or on other social media with #VirtualCROPHungerWalk or #EndHungerNow

PROCLAMATION
Ending Hunger in Las Vegas Month
October, 2021

WHEREAS, area churches, and numerous schools and civic organizations will be conducting the Las Vegas CROP Hunger Walk, through the month of October; and

WHEREAS, funds raised this month will assist, in part, local relief agencies, including Comedor de San Pascual Soup Kitchen and Pantry, the Las Vegas Community Soup Kitchen and The Samaritan House; and

WHEREAS, these funds, in part, also go to the Church World Service to provide national and international relief, development, and refugee resettlement; and

WHEREAS, Las Vegas and neighboring communities have faithfully supported CROP Hunger Walks and Church World Service by raising more than \$177,375 in the 20 years of the Walk.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Louie Trujillo, Mayor for the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico, do hereby proclaim October, 2021, as **Ending Hunger Month** in the city of Las Vegas in recognition and support of the hundreds of CROP Walkers who will “End Hunger One Step at a Time” and are asking us to join them in making a difference for hungry people locally, nationally and around the world.*

SimpliSafe Security System Update

Thanks to everyone who let us know you have keys to the church back in August! We have installed the SimpliSafe systems at 1000 Douglas and the Old Town Mission. Thank you Building and Grounds. However, we have delayed fully activating and arming the system until we can get secure and reliable wireless internet throughout the buildings. We are hoping that by the time you receive the newsletter or soon after we are fully up and running. Once the system is fully activated and functional, we will contact everyone who accesses the building and let them know the logistics of the system. Minimal training will be needed. Thanks for your patience!

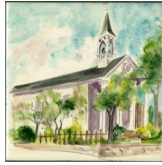
—Carol Linder



BINGO!!!

The Community Life Committee invites you to play ZOOM Bingo on October 24 at 3:00 p.m. There will be lots of prizes and giggles. BINGO cards will be emailed or snail mailed to everyone the week prior. If you have any questions, call Nina at 505-425-2539.

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
OCTOBER 2021
 Peanut Butter and Jelly
 Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



3rd	Linda Cunningham	18th	Lisa Weinstein
6th	Rod Billingsley	19th	Renee Soderlund
7th	Chad Boliek	29th	George Bunch
	Norman Spicer		Larry Johns
13th	Siobhan Croto	30th	Kathy Franken