

**HELLO FUPC FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**

In this mailing you'll find the bulletin for Sunday's worship service. Join us Sunday at 10:30 in the sanctuary, via zoom by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081>, or 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.



**THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN**

**Tuesday, December 14**

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

6:30 p.m. – Session via Zoom



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

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

December 8, 2021

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

This coming Sunday will be a paradox of sorts. Sunday morning, the third Sunday of Advent, is the Sunday of JOY. Our Scripture takes us once again to the exile, this time as told by the prophet scholars refer to as Second Isaiah. (Scholars divide the book of Isaiah into First, Second, and Third Isaiah, believing that it was written across time but compiled into a single book.) This anonymous prophet wrote during the time of the exile, and Sunday we will look at verses from the last chapter of Second Isaiah, as the exile nears its end and the people hear about God's promised restoration in terms of great joy and abundance.

Then, on Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m., we will hold a Blue Christmas service, which will allow those of us who find it difficult to be joyful during this season because of loss, pain, burdens and fears to acknowledge those feelings. And although acknowledging these feelings seems quite paradoxical from the joy found in the third Sunday of Advent, that acknowledgement—and the assurance that God is with us whether we dance with joy or sit in lament—is necessary for joy to creep back into our hearts. Please join us for this Blue Christmas worship if you carry something heavy and need some space to be with others who are feeling heaviness, too. You can join us in the sanctuary or on Zoom; bulletins will be posted online and hard copies will be available in the sanctuary.

As I look forward to Christmas, I hope you will join us for our traditional *Lessons and Responses* Christmas Eve worship (at 5:30 p.m.) and a non-traditional worship on Sunday, December 26, which will be full of the joy of the season with story and song.

With thanks for all of you,  
Pastor Katie



**Assisting in Worship This Week**

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer      Worship Leader – Ruth Turner

Director of Music - Karyl Lyne      Accompanist – Em Krall

Office Manager – Crystal Western Ford      Tech Crew – Carol Linder, D.R. Palmer, Denice Spicer



**FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701  
 December 12 2021 10:30 a.m.

**BE FILLED AND SPRING FORTH**



**MEDITATION** — *Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.* --Karl Barth

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

**WELCOME** Rev. Katie Palmer  
**PRELUDE** Em Krall  
**PASSING OF THE PEACE** Ruth Turner

*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 Psalm 130:5-8)

One: In Advent, we come from a world of scarcity	<b>All: into a world of abundance.</b>
One: We come from a world of anxiety	<b>All: into a world of God's calm comfort.</b>
One: We come from a world of weariness	<b>All: into a world awake with wonder.</b>
One: And so, we wait for the Lord	<b>All: and in God's word we hope.</b>
One: Our very souls wait for the Lord	<b>All: more than those who watch for the morning.</b>
One: For with God there is steadfast love	<b>All: and with God there is great power to redeem.</b>

**\*OPENING HYMN** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* (GTG #100)

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR<sup>1</sup>**

We watch and wait for Christ's coming!  
 We light candles of hope, peace, joy and love, remembering God's promises with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.  
 We light this candle for peace.  
 We light this candle in joy.  
 We remember these words from the letter to the Philippians:  
 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, you are our salvation; we trust in you and are not afraid.  
 Lead us to draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.  
**God of promise, God of joy, into our darkness come.**

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 55:1-13

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
 Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.  
 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.  
 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.  
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.  
 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.  
 See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
 because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.  
 Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;  
 let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
 let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways  
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
 making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
 it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
 For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;  
 the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
 and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

**SERMON** *Going Out in Joy* Rev. Katie Palmer

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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

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

**OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**CLOSING HYMN** *You Shall Go Out with Joy* (GTG #80)

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

<sup>1</sup>Adapted from a Presbyterian Mission Agency Advent litany by Teresa Lockhart Eisenlohr

## OPPORTUNITIES

**A Blue Christmas service** will be held this evening, December 12, at 5 p.m. If you are feeling the heaviness of the world or grieving loss this season, please join us for a time to sit in sacred space and acknowledge the pain and heaviness that can interrupt the joy of the season. You are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom.

**The PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering** provides support for retired church workers, who may be facing health issues or other expenses. It also provides support for racial-ethnic education at Menaul School and Pan Am University in Kingsville, TX. Gifts can be given online, or checks to FUPC with Christmas Joy Offering in the memo line can be mailed to P.O. Box 37, LV, NM. Thank you for your gracious generosity. --Mission and Peacemaking Committee

**The city has firewood available** without cost for those in need. If you or someone you know has such a need, please contact Pastor Katie, as the city requires a letter from her recognizing the need.

**Reverse Advent Calendar!** Please join us in gifting Samaritan House with items much needed by their clients. The Reverse Advent Calendar provides an opportunity to put an item aside each day for distribution to someone in need. The emphasis is more strongly on personal items this year. If you are unable to commit to putting together an entire box on your own, please consider signing up to bring one or two items to add to the sanctuary Advent box. The sign-up sheet is posted in the sanctuary, near the door to the narthex. We still need several items for next week.

**Angel Tree** – Mission and Peacemaking is again offering an opportunity to help a child whose parent or parents are in prison. Sadly, incarceration can become a generational problem. If children of prisoners have support from different avenues, this cycle can be broken.

Depending upon whether there are still local children needing support, we will decide if we will choose supporting by buying the gifts or donating to help children outside of San Miguel County. If there are still local children needing an Angel Tree sponsor, we would be expected to give an article of clothing and a toy. Sizes and toy suggestions would be provided. All those interested, please contact Pat Halverson: [ckpat@mac.com](mailto:ckpat@mac.com) or 505-239-4263 as soon as possible.

**Our Advent series**, discussion of the book *The Road to Bethlehem: Musings on the Coming King* by Celeste Allen, concludes next week. See the current newsletter for details. The reading assignment for the December 19 session is meditations 20-25. Class is from 9 to 10 a.m. on Zoom.

**After "Christmas vacation,"** the Bible-based class for adults and youth will discuss the book *Strength for the Journey: A Pilgrimage of Faith in Community* (1<sup>st</sup> edition 2002) by Diana Butler Bass. Discussions start Jan.9 and run through Feb. 27, from 9 to 10 a.m. on Zoom at the same link as the weekly worship service. The book is available used online for \$5-\$10 including shipping, or Richard Lindeborg can order you a copy delivered to you.

**Samaritan House Food Donations** – December–Canned meats (tuna, chicken, stew). Coffee and Tea are always appreciated. Please drop your donations off at Samaritan House, 501 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

**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 Ruth Hazelton, Pablo Hernandez and Lillian Hoika as well as United Church of Angel Fire, Angel Fire, NM (1996).

### ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

November 28 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
December 5 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
December 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
December 12 Blue Christmas worship at 5:00 p.m.  
December 19 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
December 24 Christmas Eve Worship at 5:30 p.m.  
December 26 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas - *Join us for this worship filled with stories and song from guest presenters*  
January 2 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas - *“Come and See” where Christ is staying*

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

*December Deacon of the Month –Rosalie Lopez –505-429-6420*

*Church Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. – Noon*

*[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)*