

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 7

7:30 a.m. – Personnel via Zoom

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

4:30 p.m. – Ecumenical Cornerstone Chorale planning team via Zoom

Wednesday, December 8

2:00 p.m. – JOT

5:30 p.m. – Time, Talent and Treasure Committee via Zoom

Thursday, December 9

9:00 a.m. – Community Life



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 1, 2021

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

A reminder: we will celebrate The Lord's Supper on Sunday, so if you plan to Zoom in for worship, please have communion elements handy—a bite of something to eat that is common to your kitchen and a drink.

Sunday will be the second Sunday of Advent. The Scripture reading is a bit unusual for the Advent season; it is Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones. I hope you will think with me about how this text is pertinent to Advent—particularly the second Sunday, when our focus is on the peace that God offers to us.

As we think about Christ's Advent—or coming—into the world, how might we think about doing our part to bring about a world of peace? Poet Denise Levertov addresses just this question in her poem "Making Peace." I hope you will spend a few minutes with it and ponder how we might "restructure the sentence our lives are making."

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

Making Peace by Denise Levertov

A voice from the dark called out,
'The poets must give us
imagination of peace, to oust the intense, familiar
imagination of disaster. Peace, not only
the absence of war.'
But peace, like a poem,
is not there ahead of itself,
can't be imagined before it is made,
can't be known except
in the words of its making,
grammar of justice,
syntax of mutual aid.
A feeling towards it,
dimly sensing a rhythm, is all we have
until we begin to utter its metaphors,
learning them as we speak.

A line of peace might appear
if we restructured the sentence our lives are making,
revoked its reaffirmation of profit and power,
questioned our needs, allowed
long pauses . . .
A cadence of peace might balance its weight
on that different fulcrum; peace, a presence,
an energy field more intense than war,
might pulse then,
stanza by stanza into the world,
each act of living
one of its words, each word
a vibration of light—facets
of the forming crystal.



Assisting in Worship This Week

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer Worship Leader – Carol Linder
Director of Music - Karyl Lyne Accompanist – Em Krall
Office Manager – Crystal Western Ford Tech Crew – D.R. Palmer, Jeff Salman, Tom Trigg



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701
December 5, 2021 10:30 a.m.

BE FILLED AND SPRING FORTH

MEDITATION — *The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.* --Dietrich Bonhoeffer

WE GATHER TOGETHER

WELCOME Rev. Katie Palmer
PRELUDE Em Krall
PASSING OF THE PEACE Carol Linder
*Let us make a commitment during this time to call someone today,
visit with them and wish them the peace of Christ*
MINUTE FOR MISSION Christmas Joy Offering Carol Litherland, M&P

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 130:5-8)

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

***OPENING HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (GTG #88, v. 1, 6, 7)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR¹

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 remember the words spoken by Zechariah in the gospel of Luke:

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

God of hope, God of peace, you speak peace into the world through the way of the Christ-child.

Help us to live as peacemakers that we may be called children of God.

God of promise, God of peace, into our darkness come.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, "Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

SERMON *Peace in Our Bones* Rev. Katie Palmer

WE SEAL GOD'S WORD

THE LORD'S SUPPER²

We give thanks for our invitation to feast at Christ's table!

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

OPPORTUNITIES

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (GTG #87)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

¹Adapted from a Presbyterian Mission Agency Advent litany by Teresa Lockhart Eisenlohr

²Adapted from a communion liturgy by Michelle L. Torigian, 2019

OPPORTUNITIES

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 or 505-239-4263 as soon as possible.

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.

Our Advent series is discussion of the book *The Road to Bethlehem: Musings on the Coming King* by Celeste Allen. See the current newsletter for details. The reading assignment for the December 12 session is meditations 14-19. 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* (1st edition 2002) by Diana Butler Bass. Discussions start Jan.12 and run through Feb. 27, from 9 to 10 a.m. on Zoom--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 7th 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 Mark Gillingham and Beth Urech, Frank Hager and Corky and Pat Halverson as well as St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque, NM (1959).

ONLINE GIVING TIPS

Did you know that your online contribution to the church has a STOP DATE???

If you have set up automatic donations from your bank to the church, they may have stopped on their own. If you have not received a confirmation of giving from your bank, or on your monthly statement, you might want to go to the church home page and find the DONATE button at the bottom. Log in to your account. On the “my scheduled transaction” line, there is an “action” button on the right side. Press that to access a new page, which will have a “donation end date” at the bottom. Be sure that box is BLANK. If there is a date present, your payment was stopped as of that date.

Your donations are very much appreciated!!!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

November 28 1st Sunday of Advent
December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent
December 12 3rd Sunday of Advent
December 12 Blue Christmas worship at 5:00 p.m.
December 19 4th Sunday of Advent
December 24 Christmas Eve Worship at 5:30 p.m.
December 26 1st Sunday after Christmas - *Join us for this worship filled with stories and song from guest presenters*
January 2 2nd 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

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