



Sharing the Love of Christ

First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

PO Box 37

1000 Douglas Avenue

Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

JANUARY 2022

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

I shouldn't be surprised that a new year has arrived in what seems like record time since the last new year, and yet each year I am caught off-guard that it could be time for shouts of "Happy New Year" again.

As we enter this new year, we will carry over much of what has plagued us the past year. The Corona virus is still with us, although in new forms as it has mutated. There is still serious political division in our country. We have not figured out how to achieve world peace or how to make sure that none of God's people go hungry or without clean water. We have not figured out how to share of the world's abundance so that all have what they need. Sadly, each year, the words in this paragraph seem to fit. We are still a people very much in process, aren't we? But we are, in fact, in process and we are making strides, though those strides are sometimes hard to see.

In any event, it is the time of year when we feel called to resolve to do things differently. A good start would be to live in ways that put the well-being of the whole before the well-being of the me. Mahatma Gandhi once wrote these "Resolutions," which I think we might all consider adopting:

I will be truthful.
I will suffer no injustice.
I will be free from fear.
I will not use force.
I will be of good will to all men.

Whether these or other resolutions, let's plan to enter the new year relying on God's guidance, as expressed by these words from poet and sociologist Minnie Louise Haskins:

The gate of the year

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way."

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

CONNECT WITH PASTOR KATIE!

Coffee with Katie – 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays at **Travelers Café** starting **January 4!**

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.

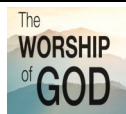


If you are not on the email distribution list for our Sunday Online Worship bulletin and would like to be, please send an email, (fupc.nm@gmail.com) to the church office requesting that your name/email be added. The bulletin is emailed on Friday for the service along with a message from Pastor Katie.

CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT UPDATE



2022 is here—the year of our clergy and congregational renewal! The Task Force that will be working toward this time of renewal, which starts in May, is taking a bit of a holiday break, but has put together a planning calendar and has made initial contact with our professional coaches. We have received the grant funds from the Lilly Endowment Fund; our treasurer, Denice Spicer, has included them in our financial reporting system and will ensure that close track is kept of expenditures for reporting purposes. Pastor Katie and D.R. will soon start to reserve accommodations for their travel. There are exciting times ahead for all of us!!



WORSHIP TIDBITS

As we move from the Christmas season into the season of Epiphany, we will find ourselves in the Gospel of John, a gospel that is significantly different from the synoptic gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. (The synoptic gospels are so-called in large part because of their basis in a common source document; not so the Gospel of John.) John shows us a unique look at Jesus, who in this gospel is quick to point to himself in big, metaphorical terms: I am the door; I am the true vine; I am the good shepherd; I am the bread of life; I am the light of the world; I am the resurrection and the life; I am the way, the truth and the life. Our theme for this Epiphany season, as we learn about the Jesus of John's gospel, is "Who Was This Man?" We'll be exploring that question for the next several weeks before we move into the season of Lent.



CORRESPONDENCE TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We have recently received several pieces of correspondence for our entire church family.

From Lindsley and Lon Silagi: Just wanted to send a note to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. We think of you often and hope all are doing well there. Nat is doing great. He now is living in Florida with his son Ethan and his daughter-in-law Jane. The wreath is in memory of my mom, Dorothy Mann. She loved placing an evergreen wreath on her front door at Christmas, so I think it a fitting way to honor her.

Warm wishes to all, Lon and Lindsley Silagi

From the volunteers at the Las Vegas Community Soup Kitchen: Thank you so much for your continued support to the LV Community Soup Kitchen. Your generosity means so much in helping us achieve our goal to continue to feed the hungry in our community. Best wishes for the New Year.

From PC(USA) Mission Coworkers Farsijana and Bernie: The letter was a long one; here's an excerpt: "Life goes on gracefully. God's love radiates when goodness brings change in the form of creativity that motivates progress. ...The ministry of PC(USA) in Indonesia has changed the way we understand life because there is a desire to work together as a way to build mutual understanding as God's people. To all those who have contributed to the beauty of God's ministry in Indonesia, we thank you..."

From Menaul School we received a newsletter, which reads in part: "Your faithful stewardship with Menaul School is lighting the way toward the future of our beloved community and brightening the path of our students today."

From Menaul Historical Library we received a 2022 calendar with photos of Menaul School graduates from 1906 – 1971! You'll find this calendar on the bulletin board near the office.



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.



Clerk's Corner

As we begin a new year, with a new budget, new chart of accounts and exciting new ideas, we have to revisit two Presbyterian budget items that often raise questions. They are 'per capita' and 'unified mission'. Tiffany Lo-Finch, our Santa Fe Presbytery Administrator/Associate Stated Clerk, has shared this explanation, which is clear and easy to understand.

The churches of Santa Fe Presbytery are asked to send contributions to the Presbytery office for the work of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. The contributions are to be sent in two categories: 1) per capita, 2) unified mission giving.

1. Per Capita is used to fund the organizational cost of having a connectional structure, including office expenses, committee expenditures, personnel salaries, and our share of PCUSA administrative costs. Intentionally, Per Capita is apportioned equally across the body, so each one of us contributes to "run" our organization. The total Per Capita amount the churches are to send to Santa Fe Presbytery for 2022 is \$35 per member. The \$35 is distributed as follows: \$21.02 to Presbytery, \$5 to Synod, and \$8.98 to General Assembly. These amounts are determined by each body in order to cover their operational costs.
2. Unified Mission giving provides for programmatic ministries like international and national mission projects via PC(USA), new church developments, youth activities like Presbytery youth retreats, and some assists various small congregations. Each church determines what amount they can contribute to the unified mission of the wider church. When the presbytery receives contributions to Unified Mission Giving we distribute them with 82% to Presbytery, 5% to Synod and 13% to General Assembly. This distribution was voted on by the Presbytery a few years ago.

At the beginning of each year, FUPC invites our members to pitch in the 'per capita' \$35 fee our church pays the Presbytery for each of us. By the way, 'per capita' means 'per head', so count the heads in your household, multiply by 35, and send a check with 'per capita' in the memo line or donate online. In any case, FUPC will pay our congregational per capita, but if each of us pays our own the church coffers can be used in other ways. As far as 'unified mission' is concerned, FUPC gives \$1,800 per year or \$150 per month to the Presbytery. This figure was determined by FUPC years ago and has remained the same.

–Karyl Lyne
Clerk of Session

TREASURE

We each have a treasure;
it is not out of reach.
It grows every day,
not by what we get,
but what we give.
Generosity is not measured.
Kindness is a priceless pearl.
The widow's mite,
as good as the rich man's plenty.
May our treasure boxes in 2022 be filled
with coins of kindness and acts of goodwill.

*On behalf of Deacons,
by Sharon Vander Meer*



Strength for the Journey and a Journey Requiring Faith

Note: There will be no Sunday Class on January 2

Starting Jan. 9, the Sunday Morning 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.

Raised as a Methodist, Butler Bass began attending nondenominational evangelical churches as a teenager. She encountered the Episcopal church for the first time as a college student and became enamored of the liturgy. After college she found another Episcopal church in her new location, starting a long journey of faith through mainline protestant churches, as she and the churches went through great changes.



The journey began in Pasadena, CA, in a congregation too liberal for her by far, and continued through other churches for 15 years before finding the same liberal church perfectly acceptable to her. But the journey continued.

As readers have commented:

“Her church attendance has spanned the country. From Massachusetts to California and several places in between. She brings to the recounting of it, not only her description of her faith journey, but a scholar’s understanding of the dynamics of the Faith.”

“The author's story is ultimately uplifting, marked by the typical spiritual ebbs and flows of the mature life of faith, but her journey is affected by the petty politics and small sins of many folks around her, from an unsupportive husband who puts obstacles in his wife’s faith journey to some clergy and church-goers who, um, do not exactly seem able to walk with Christ and to love what is just and kind...”

“But this is more than an autobiography; it is a reflection on the anxious and hopeful state of the Christian church in the time and place of the 21st century United States. The diversity of faithful witness is heartening. The honesty of mistakes is not only comforting and amusing but encouraging as transitions unfold from seeming tombs to radiant hope.”

The discussions, led by Richard Lindeborg, will run through Feb. 27 and be held 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 can order a copy delivered to you.

Readings for January and February:

[Jan. 9 Introduction: Resurrection & Chapter One: Coming Home \(pp. 1-52\)](#)

Jan. 16 Chapter Two: Competing Authorities (pp. 53-88)

Jan. 23 Chapter Three: The Establishment (pp. 89-120)

Jan. 30 Chapter Four: Practicing Faith (pp. 121-151)

Feb. 6 Chapter Five: Chapter Five: Interim (pp 153-187)

Feb. 13 Chapter Six: The Open Door (pp. 189-222)

Feb. 20 Chapter Seven: The Household of God (pp. 223-260)

Feb. 27 Conclusion: Pentecost (pp. 261-284)

UPDATE FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

The Trustees are the officers of the corporation and are elected annually by the Session from its membership. Your current trustees are Carol Linder (president), Tom Trigg (vice-president) and Judy Long (member at large). The responsibilities and powers of the trustees are those set forth in the current Presbyterian Church USA *Book of Order* and include the development and administration of an insurance program for the church and the management of its investments, endowments, and bequests.

To that end, the trustees have recently taken the following actions with the approval of ruling elders on Session:

Transferred two Shillinglaw accounts, a \$3,438.47 CD and \$1,040.20 of interest, from Community First Bank into our Vanguard investment accounts where they can earn more interest. Shillinglaw funds are currently designated for bell repair and maintenance.

Approved oversight of our Vanguard Investments from Tom Trigg to Judy Long, with Carol Linder serving as a secondary account manager.

Following the recommendations of financial advisor John Bender, adjusting our investments to keep -\$60,000 in the money market account (22% of portfolio) and investing the remaining in the \$218,190 into three funds over the next four to six months. Our portfolio will have 50% in stock fund and 50% in bonds.

Judy Long worked with Philipp Sutherland from Brotherhood Mutual to complete our annual review of our church property insurance. We removed the 4% automatic increase and went with a broadened valuation form. Under our revised plan, our church buildings are valued at \$1.5 million on main building and the Old Town Mission Community Center. We increased coverage on the bells and organ and lowered the deductible to \$2,500. Our property is covered for replacement costs. These adjustments meant that our annual premium for 2022 will be \$10,236.00 compared to \$9,557 for 2021.



TO JOIN ANY FUPC EVENTS VIA ZOOM

You are 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.



2021 Las Vegas CROP Hunger Walk Outcomes

CROP Hunger Walk Las Vegas 2021 was another tremendous success thanks to so many of the FUPC family who gave generously. CHWLV2021 Treasurer Mary Schipper reported the method of donating broke down as follows:

Cash and Checks Donations	\$4,098
Online Donations	\$13,940
Total Donations	\$18,038

Let's hear it for online giving!

The \$18,038 total is \$4,000 more than last year and \$3,000 more than the \$15,000 goal the 2021 CROP Walk Planning Team set for ourselves. This means that \$4,509.50 (25%) comes back to Las Vegas to our local agencies: Comedor de San Pascual, the Las Vegas Community Soup Kitchen and The Samaritan House. Each will receive \$1,503.17.

Group donations tallied as follows:

Immaculate Conception	\$5940.62
First United Presbyterian Church	\$3800.97
Rotary Las Vegas	\$1955.00 (includes the \$350 from the club)
Pendaries Village	\$1332.34 (beat their goal of \$1200)
Noonday Kiwanis	\$1094.50 (includes \$420 from the club)
United World College	\$ 687.66
Luna Community College	\$ 205.40
Miscellaneous	\$ 656.31

The Celebratory Walk on Saturday, Oct. 30 from The Samaritan House at 7th and Lincoln, to the Las Vegas Community Soup Kitchen at 8th and National, to Comedor de San Pascual on the Plaza allowed us into the physical space of our agencies. Directors April Valdez, Geri Padilla and Bonnie Bolton talked about what they do and how they do it. It was also an opportunity for the agencies to recruit volunteers, which they did because we had about 25 UWC students on the walk! Thanks to Bonnie Bolton at Comedor for prune pie, and to Mayor Trujillo, who dropped by to greet and thank all of us.

Thanks to the groups in Pendaries, at Luna Community College and the United World College, the Las Vegas Rotary Club and Samaritan House who created their own dates, times, and places to walk. It was so great to have so many walks CROP (I couldn't resist!) up this year. We hope to have more next year and add a business giving challenge!

We're very grateful for the Love's Community Fund grant of \$500, the Noonday Kiwanis Club donation of \$420, and the Las Vegas Rotary Club and Las Vegas Board of Realtors donations of \$350 each. We're also grateful for the very generous donation from Doyle and Pam Daves of \$750.

We thank everyone who helped achieve this success. It's all about taking care of each other and providing food for those who are hungry. We do it one step at a time. Thank you for your many steps!

Karyl Lyne
Event Coordinator
CROP Hunger Walk Las Vegas NM



UNDERSTANDING THE NEW 2022 CHART OF ACCOUNTS

When you look at the 2022 Budget in the Annual Report you will see that our numbering system and organization has changed reflecting a newly adopted Chart of Accounts. The Time, Treasure, and Talents (TTT, or TT&T committee) have also added some new abbreviations making it easier for our treasurer Denice Spicer and Office Manager Crystal Western Ford to keep track of income and expenses, including tracking of designated giving and pass-through donations (e.g., national offerings) by our congregation.

I want to give a huge shout out to Pam Abreu for taking the lead on this momentous task. Denice and I spent many evenings with Pam around my kitchen table working through the old and new numbering systems to make sure we have covered everything. We then met with committee members and chairs to find a system that will work for all of us.

The following tables will help you understand the 2022 budget. Please feel free to reach out to Pam, Denice, or myself if you have any questions.

CODES FOR FIRST POSITION OF ACCOUNT NUMBERS

- 1.XX.XXX - ASSETS
- 2.XX.XXX - LIABILITIES
- 3.XX.XXX - FUND BALANCES
- 4.XX.XXX - INCOME
- 5.XX.XXX - EXPENSE

CODES FOR SECOND POSITION OF ACCOUNT NUMBERS

- X.00.XXX General
- X.10.XXX Personnel
- X.20.XXX Physical Plant
- X.21.XXX 1000 Douglas
- X.22.XXX Old Town Mission Community Center (OTM)
- X.23.XXX Comm: Building & Grounds (B & G)
- X.30.XXX Session
- X.40.XXX Comm: Worship and Music (WAM)
- X.50.XXX Mission
- X.51.XXX Comm: Mission and Peacemaking (M & P)
- X.52.XXX Comm: Mustard Seed
- X.53.XXX Comm: Joint Operating Team (JOT)
- X.54.XXX Comm: Living in Faith Together (LIFT Campus Ministry)
- X.60.XXX Other Committees
- X.61.XXX Comm: Columbarium/Cemetery
- X.63.XXX Comm: Community Life
- X.65.XXX Comm: Education
- X.67.XXX Comm: Time, Talents, and Treasure (TTT, or TT&T)
- X.70.XXX Deacons
- X.80.XXX Available for future accounts

JANUARY 2022

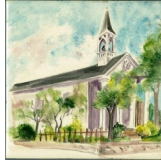
EXAMPLE CODES FOR THIRD POSITION OF ACCOUNT NUMBERS

3.00.101	General Fund (cash or near cash)
3.30.105	Bequests and Memorials (invested cash or near cash)
3.00.231	Presby Fnd - Bunch Endowment (Presbyterian Foundation)
3.52.555	DD: Mustard Seed (designated donation fund)
4.52.555	INC DD: Mustard Seed (income designated donation)
5.52.555	EXP DD: Mustard Seed (expense designated donation)
3.23.411	FUND Accrual: 1000 Douglas Major Repair (budgeted)
4.23.411	FUND INC: 1000 Douglas Major Repair (fund income)
5.23.411	FUND EXP: 1000 Douglas Major Repair (fund expense)
5.21.712	EXP: Utilities: 1000 Douglas – City (budgeted expense)
5.21.722	EXP: Utilities: OTM – City (budgeted expense)

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

1000 Douglas	Sanctuary, offices, chapel, commercial kitchen, little and big libraries, Perea Hall, east wing and upstairs meeting rooms
Accrual Fund	Budgeted money set aside to pay for projects in future years (e.g., church retreat, pastor renewal, major repairs)
A/V	Audio/Visual (for hybrid worship in person and on Zoom)
B & G	Buildings & Grounds Committee (taking of our physical plant)
CRE	Commissioned Ruling Elder (ordained and educated member able to provide many pastoral duties)
DD	Designated Donation, will roll over from year to year until spent.
Deacons	Ordained members who minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith
EXCH ACCT	Exchange Account (used for pass through and short-term designated donations)
EXP	Expenses
FFE	Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment
FICA	Federal Insurance Contributions Act (Federal Payroll tax)
FUPC	First United Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas, NM
FUND	Account whose monies will roll over from year to year
INC	Income
INS	Insurance
INT	Interest
JOT	Joint Operating Team (Old Town Mission leadership team comprised of FUPC, United World College, and community members)
LIFT	Living in Faith Together (Campus Ministry)
M & P	Mission and Peacemaking Committee
OTM	Old Town Mission Community Center at 1403 Chavez
PT	Pass Through Giving
Presby Fnd	Presbyterian Foundation Endowment Funds
Session	Ordained members who serve as ruling elders functioning as a Council of the Church and Expression of Unity & Mutuality attending to the Holy Spirit
TTT	Time, Talents, & Treasure Committee (also TT&T)
WAM	Worship and Music Committee

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 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 in person and via Zoom
 Fellowship Hour following the worship service on Zoom



Samaritan House Food Donations
JANUARY 2022
 Peanut Butter and Jelly
 Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



6th	Em Krall	18th	Fred Salas
8th	Cathy Stauber Krall	19th	Tom Trigg
16th	Bob VanderMeer	21st	Don Monnheim
17th	Debra Reid	29th	Mark Gillingham