



Sharing the Love of Christ  
First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)  
PO Box 37  
1000 Douglas Avenue  
Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

APRIL 2022

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

April is a time of fullness. Spring blooms all around us, filling us with the hope of new life. We walk through the heavy grief of Jesus' crucifixion yet again and we recognize the fullness of God's love for us. Easter fills us with light and with resurrection hope and with the assurance of God's steadfast love. What abundance! What promise! What renewal of life all around!

And yet this year we also know the reality of war in Ukraine—a reality that fills us with a different kind of abundance—an abundance of death, destruction and hatred that does not lead to promise and new life. Of course, war is nothing new. There have been other Easters that have come in the midst of war in some part of the world. Perhaps because many of us have friends who think of Ukraine as their ancestral homeland, this one seems closer. Perhaps because we haven't seen this kind of aggressive invasion in a long time, it seems closer and scarier. It's hard to consider the promise of Easter when confronted with the reality of war, wherever that reality might play out. It's hard to feel empowered to DO SOMETHING to alter this reality. And so how, as we celebrate Easter, do we realize God's peace?

At our last Session meeting, I shared a poem written by Benedictine nun Macrina Wiederkehr (1939-2020) that I share with you here now. Sometimes, when we feel helpless to accomplish peace on a global scale, we must instead work toward a different kind of peace. The poem, "Blessed Are the Peacemakers; You Shall Be Called Children of God" (from the Beatitudes), explores that kind of peace.

*Blessed Are the Peacemakers; You Shall Be Called Children of God*

by Macrina Wiederkehr

Then all the violence in me  
cried out to the peacemakers:  
But where do you get all the peace  
that you share?

An old woman answered:  
We give best what we are  
she said,  
I have searched deeply  
into the mystery of myself  
for something that would last  
through all the storms of life.  
I have waited in faith  
for a great healing  
to arise within me.  
I prayed that when it came  
I would recognize it  
welcome it home  
and then give it away  
For we can only keep  
what we give away.

And now  
this long awaited star  
has risen in my heart  
Its name is *peace*.

I found it waiting for me  
deep inside  
on the day I stopped looking  
and started seeing.

And now, more than anything  
that needs to happen  
in the human heart  
I long to help it see the peace  
that's already there.

I am the peacemaker  
I make peace by showing you my star  
and leading you to see  
the space for God you are.

With thanks for all of you,  
Pastor Katie



## WORSHIP TIDBITS

With April, we move closer to Easter. But we can't get to Easter without going through Passion Week. We'll observe Palm Sunday on April 10—the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (although in the gospel of John, it's a little more subdued than in the synoptic gospels) and then the walk with Jesus in those last days before the crucifixion, and finally, crucifixion and death. We continue to listen during this time of trial and grief for Jesus' voice. We will listen not only on Sunday mornings, but also on Good Friday evening (service at 5:30), at which time we'll see the sanctuary stripped of color as we experience the death of the Light of the World.

Darkness.

And then, Easter. Light. Resurrection. Mary encountering the empty tomb and then encountering Jesus. Jesus appearing to the disciples, feeding them, and speaking to them in a voice both they and we recognize. "I Know That Voice!" Amen.

**FLOWERS FOR EASTER!!**

The Worship and Music Committee is excited to be back in the sanctuary for Easter this year, and we need your help. We invite you to bring pots of flowers of every kind and color to worship on Easter, April 17. Bring tulips, daffodils, lilies, whatever pleases you. We will process to the front and fill the chancel with beautiful flowers as symbols of God's abundant grace and the risen Christ! Please put your name on the pot so you can easily find it afterward to take home to enjoy. Thanks for your help!



## REMEMBER WEEKLY WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONALS!

Pastor Katie (1st Wednesdays), Rod Billingsley (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays), Pat Halverson (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays) and Karyl Lyne (4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://lvpresbyterian.org).



## CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT UPDATE

It is almost time for the activities of the Lilly Renewal Grant to begin! This calendar has been developed over the past three months by the grant task force. We are thankful for all of the lay preachers, special guests, and workshop leaders who have agreed to participate to make this time of renewal interesting and meaningful. More details and descriptions will follow in the bulletins and the upcoming newsletters.

Sat/Sun May 14-15	John Stokes, Tracker - Tracking workshop (Saturday) & Preaching (Sunday)	
Sunday 5/29/2022	Sharon VanderMeer - on journaling	
Sunday 6/5/2022	lay preacher - Linda Solyntjes	
Sat/Sun Jun 11-12	Rev. Linda Loving, retired pastor, writer and actor - Drama workshop & preaching	
Sunday 6/19/2022	Artist Duffy Peterson	
Saturday 6/25/2022	<b>Try something new workshops: Caroline Rackley (drama), Anne Bradford (Zentangle), Kayt Peck (poetry), and Sharon Vander Meer (journaling)</b>	
Sunday 6/26/2022	Special Service - Blessing of the Animals, Randy Campbell	
Sunday 7/3/2022	lay preacher Pablo Hernandez	
Sat/Sun July 9-10	Roger Holland, Director of the Denver Spirituals Project and music professor at University - workshop & preaching	Denver
Sunday 7/17/2022	lay leaders Tom Trigg and Mary Shipper - contemplative practice	
Saturday 7/23/2022	<b>Try something new workshops: John Arnold (Tai Chi), Frank Beurskens (woodworking), Carol Litherland (American Sign Language)</b>	
Sunday 7/24/2022	lay preacher John Arnold	
Sat/Sun July 30-31	Jen Friedman, M.Div., hospital chaplain and Dances of Universal Peace leader - dance workshop & preaching	
Sunday 8/7/2022	lay preacher Carol Linder	
Sat/Sun Aug 13-14	Rev. Seth Finch, pastor and story teller - storytelling workshop & preaching	
Sunday 8/21/2022	lay leader Judi Ruprecht, liturgical dance	
Saturday 8/27/2022	<b>Try something new workshops: Kevin Johnson (crafts), Elizabeth Ratzlaff (meditative glass painting), Pam Abreu (a brief introduction to contemplative photography)</b>	
Sunday 8/28/2022	lay leader and musical guests	
09/04/22	lay preacher Brett Gilland	
09/11/22	Pastor Katie returns to the pulpit.	
09/24/22	One day retreat for reflecting on and debriefing this renewal time - NMHU Ballroom	

## MUSTARD SEED AWARDS

### Mustard Seed Awards grants in excess of \$8,600 to ten local organizations.

Mustard Seed grants provide “seed” money for special new and innovative projects and one-time expenses. We fund projects in the following focus areas:

- Youth participation/benefit
- Mission within or beyond the community
- Community/church-related projects

This year we received twelve requests for funding. Proposals were evaluated on the basis of need, outreach potential, likelihood of success, alignment with our focus areas, and our church’s mission statement:

*With Christ as the center of our ministry, First United Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas, New Mexico is dedicated to sharing the love of Christ in our community and beyond.*

We are excited about the impact we are making on the Las Vegas community!

Request	Organization	Sponsor	Amt Awarded
Las Vegas Chess Club	Community Members (Katherine McClaren and Luke Ritter)	Juli Salman	\$700
Supplies for Day Room Activities	Samaritan House (April Valdez)	DR Palmer	\$700
East Wing Community Gathering Space	First United Presbyterian Church (Mary Schipper)	Mary Schipper	\$1,500
Outdoor Literacy Fair	Literacy Council (Catherine Kahn and Dorothy Maestas)	Judy Long	\$500
Quilting and Sewing Supplies	Silver Threads of NNM Quilters (Lin Chibante)	Carol Linder	\$1,110
West Las Vegas Reading Quest supplies	Reading Quest (Rayna Dineed)	Jan Beurskens	\$536
Reading Quest Tutors for summer program	San Miguel County 100% Community (Matthew Probst)	Pam Abreu	\$567
Semi-trash pump & accessories	Friends of Montezuma Hot Springs (Martin Leger)	Murl Baker	\$1,000
Student Athlete Food Pantry	NM Highlands Athletics (Andrew Ehling)	Juli Salman	\$1,000
Abriendo Puertas program for parents of Pre-schoolers	Luna Community College (Brenda Ortega and Amor Sanchez)	Pam Abreu	\$1,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$8,613</b>

*Carol Linder and Corky Halverson, co-chairs.*



## CLERK'S CORNER

### FUPC Presbytery Commissioner Report

The Presbytery Meeting was held Feb. 19, 2022, via zoom, and was informative and inspiring. As you may know, FUPC is in the Presbytery of Santa Fe, which is the northern half of New Mexico. It is also about a quarter of the Synod of the Southwest, which includes New Mexico and Arizona.

The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Santa Fe is Stephen Rhoades, who has served for many years. The Moderator of the Presbytery has a one-year term which alternates between a Minister of Word and Sacrament and a lay person. Clara Storms, the 2022 Moderator, is a lay person.

The moderator presides over the meetings, in the same way Katie presides over our session meetings. There are 37 churches in the Presbytery of Santa Fe and each church has a commissioner elected by the congregation. There are seven staff members at the Presbytery Office in Albuquerque, just off I-25. The Presbytery meets three times a year in February, June or July, and October. As is true of our churches, the Presbytery has several committees—Worship, Mission, Education, Finance & Property, Ministry, Preparation for Ministry, Personnel, Representation and Participation (nominating), and Permanent Judicial. Each committee has specific responsibilities and reports at each meeting. Meetings always have a wonderful worship service. At the February meeting, FUPC singers recorded four Taize songs for the service.

#### *Highlights from this meeting include:*

- The approval of a minimum compensation for pastors as of Jan. 1, 2023, of \$44,675 (up from \$43,500 in 2020)
- The Presbytery of Santa Fe overtures the 225th General Assembly (2022) to:
  1. Give thanks for, pray for, and commend the congregations and organizations that have initiated the Guns to Gardens project as a way to responsibly dispose of unwanted firearms, turning them into garden tools rather than returning them to the gun market.
  2. Recommend to the churches and presbyteries of the PCUSA that they learn about the Guns to Gardens project and prayerfully consider if it is a ministry to which they are called, as part of the PCUSA witness to prevent gun violence, save lives, and provide healing for a nation traumatized by violence.
  3. Urge the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program to add information about the Guns to Gardens program to its website list of Gun Violence Prevention Resources and encourage the Peacemaking Program and other communications and mission entities of the PCUSA to join in commending those congregations, presbyteries and synods that participate in the Guns to Gardens movement. For more information: [www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence).
- The Presbytery CONCUR with the following overtures to the 225th General Assembly (2022):
  1. MC-01: On Recognizing Non-Chartered Fellowships as Churches to Promote Representation and Participation on National and Regional Committees and Councils
  2. POL- 11: On Establishing a Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination to Ordered Ministry for Ruling Elders
  3. POL-12: On Amending G-2.0504 Regarding Parish Associates
  4. RGJ-09: On Directing the Office of the General Assembly to Issue Apologies and Reparations for the Racist Closure of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Juneau, Alaska

Finally, the Presbytery of Santa Fe will hold its summer meeting at FUPC in Las Vegas on Saturday, July 16, 2022. Stay tuned for how you can help welcome the Presbytery to our church in July!

Karyl Lyne,  
Clerk of Session  
FUPC Commissioner to the Presbytery of Santa Fe





## It's Amazing! Bible-Based Class Looks Closely at Grace

### Amazing Authors Quoted

A.N Wilson, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Anthony Hecht, Barbara Tuchman, Benjamin Franklin, Buruma Ian, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, Christoph Schonborn, David Seamands, Desmond Tutu, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, Dorothy Sayers, Dr. Bob Smith, Dwight Eisenhower, Earl Warren, Elizabeth O'Connor, Elton Trueblood, Erma Bombeck, Ernest Hemingway, Francois Mauriac, Frederick Buechner, Friedrich Nietzsche, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, George Herbert, Georges Barnanos, Gregory Jones, Hans Kung, Harold Frederic, Helmut Thielicke, Henri Nouen, Herman Wouk, Isak Dinesen, Jacob Neusner, James Dobson, Jeanne McDowell, John Adams, John Donne, John Dryden, Joseph Forsyth, Joseph Klausner, Joyce Meyer, Karl Barth, Kenneth Bailey, Kenneth Kaunda, Lance Morrow, Laurens van der Post, Leo Tolstoy, Leslie Newbiggin, Lewis Smedes, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Mark Wilson, Martin Luther King Jr, Martin Luther, Mary Douglas, Mary Karr, Miroslav Volf, Nancy Mairs, Nicholas Kristof, Paul Johnson, Paul Tournier, Peter Greave, Ralph Reed, Reinhold Niebur, Robert Bellah, Robert Capon, Robert Hughes, Romano Guardini, Ronald Sider, Samuel Becket, Sean Heaney, Simon Wiesenthal, Simone Weil, Soren Kierkegaard, St. Augustine, St. John of the Cross, Stefan Ullstein, Terry, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Merton, Walter Trobisch, Walter Wink, Will D. Campbell, William James, William Manchester, William Willimon

### Books of the Bible Quoted

2 Corinthians, Acts, Exodus, Hebrews, Hosea, Isaiah, Job, John, Leviticus, Luke, Matthew, Micah, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Psalms, 1 Timothy, Romans

Starting April 24, the Sunday Morning Bible-Based Class for Adults and Youth will be discussing the book *What's So Amazing About Grace* by Philip Yancey. The sessions, led by Karyl Lyne and Richard Lindeborg, will run through June 12 from 9 to 10 a.m.

The class will probably be hybrid, with sessions in the audio-visual classroom upstairs in the church and on Zoom. The book has been recommended by Karyl after having been recommended to her by friends who studied it in their adult Sunday school class.

### This From Readers

Grace is a word that we Christians throw around, but never really take time to examine, unpack, and explore. That's a shame though. As Philip Yancey says, "Grace changes everything..." and indeed he's right. EVERYTHING is not only changed by grace, but transformed in a complete 180-degree turn around!

Yancey's use of stories and modernized parables helps paint a picture of grace that is a game changer for the Christian community, and in our society today it couldn't be more relevant. He draws on his life and travels, on his reading, on his not-always-kind reader responses, on his many conversations with both the famous and the decidedly not, and on history recent or remote. What we SEE through his eyes is the healing grace through which God takes the world into His arms.

The books are available second hand in hardback or paperback from Amazon (for \$5-10 including shipping or on Kindle for \$7.99) or other online dealers such as Alibris and Abebooks. Paper Trail may be able to order a copy. Richard Lindeborg can have a copy delivered directly to you for no shipping charge.

### Initial reading assignments

April 24, Chapters 1-3, pp. 19-42 [2: A World Without Grace]

May 1, Chapters 4-5 pp. 45-72 [5: The New Math of Grace]

## LET'S RECYCLE GLASS ITEMS!



The FUPC Community Life Committee is collecting glass bottles and jars, colored or clear, for the months of April and May. We will be working with a local glass crushing venture and our own landscaping committee to use the glass in a landscaping project. If you are able to wash the bottles and jars and get the labels off, it will be appreciated. If you are not able to remove labels, we can arrange to do it; however, please rinse out any jars or bottles. We will have a few boxes at the church for collection, and are willing to come pick up your glass from you. Call Pam at 5050-429-3053 to arrange for pickup.

## HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE

Remember! There are hearing assist devices available at the AV Center for use during worship for those who need them. First come, first served. Just ask one of the tech crew members.



## 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](http://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.



## TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE COMMITTEE

**Thanks for helping us grow and share our faith, seek justice, and build community!**

We appreciate your ongoing financial support to carry out the mission and vision of our church!

### **We give because:**

*We believe that God excludes no one; all are beloved children of God. No exceptions.*

*We believe that Jesus, the Christ, is living alongside us and showing us how to live and how to love one another.*

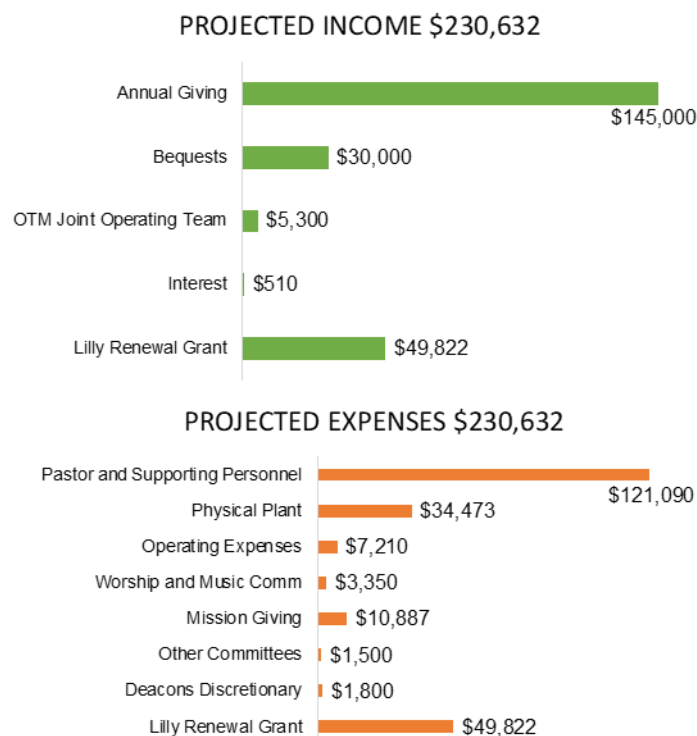
*We believe that, in Christ, we can work toward the realization of God's kingdom on earth. Our primary goal is to love one another. That means actively working to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, free the oppressed, and seek justice for all.*

*We believe that, in Christ, we are family. We care for each other and our community even when we are not particularly lovable. We're there for each other when we grieve and when we celebrate.*

As we are here during worship on Sunday morning, there are three ways to give. Giving online at [lvpresbyterian.org](http://lvpresbyterian.org) is definitely the easiest method. You can also send a check to the church at PO Box 37, Las Vegas, NM 87701 or put an offering into the plate on Sunday mornings.

Carol Linder  
Chair, Time, Talent, and Treasure Committee

### **2022 Financials**





## CONNECT WITH PASTOR KATIE!

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

Meet Katie at Traveler's Café (if possible, in the back on the comfy sofas) to share coffee, tea, maybe a croissant or scone, and good conversation.

**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.



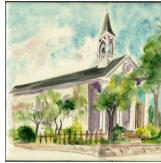
## ONLINE GIVING REMINDER

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.

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Website: [www.lvpresbyterian.org](http://www.lvpresbyterian.org)

Facebook: Las Vegas First United Presbyterian (NM)

Email: [fupc.nm@gmail.com](mailto: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**

**APRIL 2022**

Boxed potatoes or other boxed entree  
Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



2nd	Carol Linder	19th	Beth Urech
4th	Trudi Samuelson	21st	Art Trujillo
10th	Alexander Ditton	22nd	Frank Hager
14th	Elisa White	24th	Carrol Pearson
17th	Alastair Buchanan	25th	Cole Weinstein
	30th Judy Long		
	Rebecca Geng		