



## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

First United Presbyterian Church  
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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sundays

*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.*



- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

[www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/)

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# BYLAWS OF FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue  
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701

## ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this Congregation and Corporation shall be “The First United Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas,” located in Las Vegas, New Mexico, a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

## ARTICLE II: Authority

This Congregation and Corporation are governed in all its parts by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and by the laws of the State of New Mexico for religious Corporations.

## ARTICLE III: Congregational and Corporation Meetings

Meetings of the Congregation and the Corporation shall be held in conjunction with each other to the extent permitted by civil law.

Annual and special meetings of the Congregation and Corporation shall be called by public notice from the pulpit during the two Sunday worship services preceding the meeting. Such notice will include the time, place and purpose of the meeting. The annual meeting shall, if possible, take place in January or February.

The annual Congregational meeting will include election of a Nominating Committee for the coming year.

A quorum (G-1.0501) of congregational and corporation meetings shall consist of the moderator and ten percent (10%) of the active (G-1.0402) members. All active members of First United Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas shall be eligible to vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

## ARTICLE IV: Elected Officers

The officers of the church shall include:

- **Ruling elders, who will make up the session, shall be ordained elders elected to the session by the congregation;**
- **Trustees of the corporation shall be ruling elders currently serving on the session, who are eligible under civil law to be corporate officers and are elected by the session;**
- **Deacons, who are elected by the congregation.**

The number of each type of officer to be elected shall be determined by the session based on church membership and activities.

The term of office for all officers shall be 2 years, with a limit of 6 years of service on a body. Terms shall be staggered so that approximately ½ of each body is elected each year.

Elections for ruling elders and deacons will be held annually at a special meeting of the congregation (normally in the summer).

Candidates shall include those presented by the nominating committee and those nominated at the meeting from the floor. Any person, whether nominated by the nominating committee or from the floor, must have agreed to the nomination.

## ARTICLE V: Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee - The nominating committee shall be elected at the annual congregational meeting and consist of at least five members of the congregation, one of whom shall be a ruling elder.

The nominating committee shall nominate candidates for the following year's nominating committee and other officers of the congregation. Those nominated must have agreed to serve.

Once elected, nominating committee members will serve through the next year's annual meeting.

## ARTICLE VI: Conduct of Meetings

The session, its committees and the deacons shall hold scheduled meetings at least quarterly.

A quorum of the session shall consist of the moderator and three session members.

## ARTICLE VII: Delegations of Responsibility

The session may delegate responsibilities to committees, working groups, task forces or other units, provided such units include a member designated to report activities to the session.

The Book of Order lists the responsibilities of the session, trustees and deacons.

## ARTICLE VIII: Amendment Procedure

These By-Laws may be amended subject to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Charter of the Corporation and the laws of the State of New Mexico. Amendments may be voted at any Annual Meeting of the Congregation or at any special meeting of the Congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members present and voting. There shall be a full reading of the proposed change(s), or printed distribution of same shall have been made in connection with the call for the meeting. There shall be a quorum of active members present as provided for in ARTICLE III above.

## ARTICLE IX: Effective Date

Approved May 31, 2015, these by-laws immediately replace all previous by-laws, including those revised 2/8/2004.

**First United Presbyterian Church  
Las Vegas, New Mexico  
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, February 7, 2021  
11:24 am via zoom**

**I. Declaration of a quorum** A quorum was declared by Clerk Karyl Lyne.

**II. Opening Prayer** The meeting opened in prayer by Moderator Katie Palmer.

**III. Explanation regarding electronic meeting** Rev. Palmer explained that the FUPC Bylaws do not allow for electronic meetings, however, at this time of COVID there is no alternative. As per the Clerk of the Presbytery Stephen Rhoades, we will conduct the business of the church that must be completed now. Other business, like bylaws changes, will wait until we can meet in person. Joyce Litherland pointed out that changes to the terms and schedule of work for the nominating committee also need to be changed in the bylaws. Clerk Lyne said the bylaws changes regarding electronic meetings and the nominating committee have been written and will be presented at the next in person congregational meeting.

**IV. Approval of Agenda** The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

**V. Approval of 2020 Annual Report containing**

Minutes of 2020 Congregational Meetings  
Reports of Pastor and Clerk of Session  
Committee Reports  
Budget (Mary Schipper, Treasurer)

Moderator Palmer acknowledged the work of the officers and committees of the church who, despite COVID, and the technological and logistical challenges of this year, carried on apace. Special thanks went to the Session, Deacons, Committee Chairs, Worship and Music and our musicians, DR Palmer and Office Manager Linda Solyntjes. She said the report had been distributed to all members electronically or by snail mail. She invited members to ask questions if they had them, and to send small typographical or grammatical corrections to her or to the clerk via email. Treasurer Schipper announced that the budget in the report was a balanced budget!

**VI. Motion and Vote to Receive the 2020 Annual Report** The motion to receive the 2020 Annual Report passed unanimously.

**VII. Announcement from the Personnel Committee** Personnel Committee Chair Judy Long announced that Office Manager Linda Solyntjes has handed in her resignation effective April 2, 2021, after eleven years of service. Judy said, "Linda has been the glue to hold the church together during the pandemic." Moderator Palmer expressed her appreciation for Linda's dedication to the work of the church, and wished her well in retirement. The Personnel Committee will begin the search for Linda's replacement soon.

**VIII. Pause Congregational Meeting; Convene Corporate Meeting** Moderator Palmer turned the meeting over to President of the Trustees Carol Linder, who convened the meeting of the Corporation at 11:37 am. Moderator Palmer and DR Palmer left the virtual meeting space. Carol invited Personnel Committee Chair Judy Long to present the 2021 Pastor's Terms of Call to the congregation. Judy explained that the medical deductible, co-insurance, dental premiums and the Board of Pensions coverage are not listed on the terms of call document, but are included in the 2021 FUPC Budget. There was a question on how our terms of call compared

with other churches our size in the presbytery. Deb Reid, former Personnel Committee Chair, said that our terms of call were comparable monetarily, but more generous in terms the 10 Sundays off.

**IX. Motion and Vote to approve Pastor's Terms of Call** There being no questions regarding the terms of call, the motion to approve the 2021 Pastor's Terms of Call passed unanimously.

**X. Adjourn Corporate Meeting** The corporate meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am and Moderator Palmer reconvened the congregational meeting.

**XI. Adjournment** The 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Palmer at 11:50 am.

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Clerk      Moderator



## PASTOR'S REPORT 2021

We entered 2021 still in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic and with high hopes that it would soon be behind us. Instead, we continue to deal with variants of the original virus, practicing precautions when gathering together and with an eye on the news to maintain our awareness of how we can best keep the welfare of God's people in mind. While the pandemic's effects on us have in many ways been frustrating and even traumatizing, we have also in many ways made strides toward new ways of being the church and have continued many of our traditions despite the pandemic. As I write this report, I hope to capture not only my 2021 activities, but the way I have seen God's Spirit at work in this church family.

### Congregational Worship

Perhaps the biggest overall change in worship during 2021 was our move to a hybrid worship format. This format allows those worshipers who want to be in the sanctuary to attend in person, and those who—for a variety of reasons—prefer to worship online to do so. We made this move in the summer, then a COVID surge required us to return to Zoom-only worship for a few weeks before again moving to the hybrid format in late fall. For me, this change meant working closely with the tech crew so that I would understand the worship format, becoming used to preaching to a smaller group of folks in the sanctuary and being always aware that there were people worshipping online as well, and learning to “think hybrid” as I planned my movements with the movement of the camera and microphones in mind. Additionally, as the Worship and Music Committee did its planning, we had to keep both the limits of our technology in mind and the opportunities such technology affords us. The move to this worship format went surprisingly smoothly; God's Spirit was ever-present as the Buildings and Grounds Committee designed and built a beautiful and well-functioning Audio/Visual Center in the back of the sanctuary, as D.R. Palmer and Jeff Salman took responsibility to research and purchase the equipment needed, and as people volunteered to be trained on tech crew duties. None of this would have happened without the foresight of the FUPC Session, who unanimously agreed to fund the building of and equipment for the A/V Center. We have found that usually about half of those who attend worship for a given service choose to be online—some because they want to continue to take that precaution against COVID, some because they do not live in the area, some because they have mobility issues, some simply because they prefer to worship from home. I am grateful that our decision to make hybrid worship possible has allowed people to make this choice and to better understand the presence of the Spirit both inside and outside the church walls.

During our year of learning how to “Zoom worship” in 2020, I learned the importance of equipping Worship Leaders and Zoom hosts with clear instructions, which I refer to as “worship scripts,” so that worship goes smoothly, with everyone knowing what is needed and who will do what. The use of these “scripts” continues to enhance worship in the hybrid format; many who have served as worship leaders have thanked me for preparing this special version of the bulletin to help them lead worship.

Even as we moved to a new format for worship, we have continued many of our worship traditions. The Worship and Music Committee had extended meetings to plan upcoming worship with a special focus on key liturgical seasons. In January, the Committee held an online planning retreat to plan for the Lent and Easter seasons; they again met later in the year to plan for Advent and Christmas. Each church season—whether a “big” one or not, had a worship theme; you will find these themes outlined in the Worship and Music

Committee report (p. 36). It was my privilege to lead these planning sessions; WAM members offer their dedication to the planning and bring to the table their faith, theological insight, and creativity.

As we have for the last several years, during 2021, we renewed our baptismal vows on Baptism of the Lord Sunday (January 10), had an opportunity to walk through Jesus' passion with a Good Friday service (April 2), and to celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday (April 4). These services were all online, as the Re-Entry Task Force I led had determined it was not yet safe to gather in person. Because we were still meeting online, we had a "drive-by" distribution of palms on the Saturday before Palm Sunday (March 27). As folks pulled over in front of the church, we handed out palms and gave a blessing to those in the car. I am grateful for Randy Campbell, who joined me in offering blessings, and to WAM members Karyl Lyne and Charlotte Wootton who distributed palms.

Later in the year, we celebrated Advent and Christmas Eve using our hybrid format. For the first time in 2021, we offered a "Blue Christmas" worship service for those who were experiencing various kinds of loss that kept them from feeling the joy of the season. This service was held on December 12. And, for the first time, we had a special Christmas service on the first Sunday after Christmas. This experience allowed us to worship through story, music, and prayer rather than through our more traditional order of worship. Members of St. Paul's Peace Church joined us for this special worship during which we enjoyed music from Mark Gillingham, Steve Hufnal, Jordan Jones, Em Krall, Tegan Palmer, and Kevin Zoernig and poetry and story from Mary Rose Henssler, Beth Urech, Sharon Vander Meer and myself. As I designed this special worship and worked with all the participants (both those who presented a worshipful piece and those behind the scenes), I was so grateful for the eagerness of everyone to spread Christmas joy. Certainly, the Spirit was with me during the planning and was with those participants as they prepared and led parts of the worship that day.

#### Congregational Education:

I enjoyed leading a book study on *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh in March via Zoom. Additionally, I worked with WAM members to arrange a series of Sunday afternoon discussions during Lent led by guests with a focus on areas of interest in the church's work on justice issues. Guests included Nelson Capitan, who spoke on issues of indigenous peoples in New Mexico, and Guillermo Yela, who spoke on immigrant populations in New Mexico. George Lyon, then-director of Samaritan House, was scheduled to speak on the issues of homelessness, but had to cancel because of a death in his family.

It was a privilege to lead a class for new members in May and to welcome into membership Nina Marquez Johns, Ann Taylor-Trujillo and Maria Weinrich at the end of the month. An often-cited reason for folks who join our faith family include the evidence that the Spirit is at work here.

#### Pastoral Care

I continued to meet with people for Tuesday morning "Coffee with Katie," although these gatherings happened online rather than in person in light of the continuing pandemic. I also kept in touch with many church family members—especially those who were dealing with health issues or the isolation of the pandemic—with calls and cards. Once pandemic restrictions were loosened, I was able to visit several people in their homes or meet for a meal or coffee. What a welcome change to be able to sit with someone and talk face-to-face—taking proper precautions, of course.



As the year started, I made a resolution to remember each church family member with a card on his or her birthday; most of these cards were sent as electronic greetings via email, but for those who do not use email, they were sent by snail mail. (If you did not see a card from me on your birthday, check your inbox or spam folder for a card through Jacquie Lawson Cards.)

Additionally, I continued recording regular devotionals throughout the year and am grateful for the pastoral care offered by others who also recorded devotionals: Rod Billingsley, Rev. Pat Halverson, Karyl Lyne, Denice Spicer, and Beth Urech.

I believe strongly that communication is a big part of pastoral care. I worked to keep in touch with the church family through notes that accompanied the bulletin and through letters and articles in our monthly newsletters.

While in-person meetings with Los Mensajeros were suspended through the first part of 2021, we were able to resume monthly meetings late in the year. It continues to be a pleasure to meet with this group for mutual encouragement and preaching discussions. Los Mensajeros, a group originally formed when FUPC sponsored several people in their training to become Commissioned Pastors, has continued to meet over the years, though its membership has changed. We said good-bye this year to John Detterick, who had served FUPC as a Commissioned Pastor prior to my arrival here and who died in February. Currently, the group consists of Shirley Sandoval, Commissioned Pastor at El Rito Presbyterian Church in Chacon; Siobhan Croto, Commissioned Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Raton; Rod Billingsley, who is preaching regularly at First Presbyterian Church in Mora; and me.

### Administration

Throughout this year of continued pandemic, FUPC's church committees continued to work hard to serve God's people—within the church family, within our community, and throughout the world. I strove to keep abreast of each committee's work and participated in committee meetings for those committees that impact my responsibilities most directly—Worship and Music; Deacons; Time, Talent and Treasure; Community Life; and Personnel.

The Personnel Committee was faced with the daunting task in the spring of finding a new Office Manager following Linda Solyntjes' retirement from the position. We were so fortunate to find Crystal Western Ford, who joined the church staff in March. Crystal's warmth and skill make her a natural in the office environment.

At the end of the year, the Personnel Committee worked to design a job description for a new position that has been approved by Session—that of a part-time (five hours per week) Social Media Liaison. The Committee will work to fill this position in early 2022.

The Time, Talent and Treasure Committee's work includes strategic planning for the future of the congregation and, to that end, the committee held an online mini-retreat in August, which I attended. I also worked with the Financial Task Force, which TTT chair Carol Linder established to address issues relating to reworking our Chart of Accounts and other financial policies.

As Moderator of the Session, I work not only to accomplish the "business" of the church with the Ruling Elders, but to prepare timely devotionals for our meetings and to keep us thinking as a church rather than a business. This year, we had the exciting prospect of applying for a Clergy Renewal Grant funded by the Lilly Endowment. Session approved this endeavor; we spent time during our Session online retreat in February

focusing on that grant proposal process. Working also with committees of the church, our congregation, and especially those people who were part of the Grant Proposal Task Force, we wrote our proposal, “Tracking the Word: Embodying the Spirit,” and submitted it in April. In late summer, we learned that we had been selected to receive the grant, in the amount of \$49,822.00. Grant activities will take place from May – September, 2022. I offer my thanks to the countless hours this team poured into preparing the proposal. Thank you, Pam Abreu, D.R. Palmer, Renee Soderlund, and Denice Spicer and thanks, too, to those who are now working to bring the proposal to reality: Pam Abreu, Karyl Lyne, Jeff Salman, Renee Soderlund, Linda Solyntjes, and Ann Taylor-Trujillo.

In addition to the Grant Task Force, I established a Re-Entry Task Force to monitor the dangers presented by COVID and to determine when we could move from Zoom-only worship to our hybrid format. We moved into the hybrid format on June 6; the COVID surge later in the year caused us to move back to Zoom-only from September 5 - October 31. I am grateful for those who have served and who continue to serve on this Task Force as we monitor the continuing issues with the COVID virus: Carol Linder, Karyl Lyne, D.R. Palmer, Linda Solyntjes, Tom Trigg, and Crystal Western Ford.

### Community Service

I continue to serve on the Samaritan House Board of Directors and on the agency’s grant/fundraising team. It has been a rough year for Samaritan House, whose staff and clients have dealt with the realities of the pandemic and transition to a new Executive Director following the resignation of George Lyon. I am pleased to be working with Executive Director April Valdez and the Board for this important community organization.

Additionally, I was honored to deliver the Invocation for the County Extension Bees on May 5.

### Presbytery Service

The Presbytery of Santa Fe held two rather than three meetings in 2021, both via Zoom. The June meeting was cancelled due to a lack of pressing business matters. I attended these meetings and, as one of the three co-chairs of the Worship Networking Committee, worked to design worship services for those meetings.

### Study and Self-Care

A perk of the pandemic is that there are many webinars being offered for church leaders at no or little cost. Throughout the year, I attended webinars and online events that were pertinent to the work we here at FUPC are doing. These included a “Stewardship Fare” from the presbytery in April, a webinar on hybrid worship in June, and a five-session course called the Hosanna Preaching Project in September and October. This last course, under the leadership of theology professor Taurean Webb, drew parallels between issues of oppression in Black America and in Palestine. Thank you to the Mission and Peacemaking Committee, who alerted me to this opportunity and who funded my participation in the course.

I had also intended to attend, virtually, the Festival of Homiletics in May. However, a trip to the Emergency Room with a small stroke a week before the Festival happened altered my plans!

In October, I took a week of study leave, spending time catching up on many past issues of *The Presbyterian Outlook*, *Christianity Today*, *Presbyterians Today*, and other publications that had been on my “to do” list that I hadn’t had time “to do”! Additionally, I spent time during this week planning worship for early 2022.

I continue to profit from the comfort and experience of four clergy colleagues with whom I attended the Iliff School of Theology, meeting with them quarterly via Zoom for support and encouragement.

Overall, 2021 was a year of continued uncertainty with the ongoing pandemic. As always, this congregation has risen to the challenges the year posed and has been generous in their support for their pastor. I am grateful for all of you.

Finally, I remember with fondness those members of the church family we said good-bye to this year. John Detterick passed to life eternal on February 16 and, though he was no longer a member of FUPC, his connection here was still strong. He will be missed. Joyce Litherland passed on May 11, Betty Quick in June, Bernie Meadows on June 20, Patrick Rucker on August 1, Wilma Cunico on September 19, Laura Wilson on October 19, and Chuck Peterson on December 27. Additionally, we mourned with Maria Weinrich whose son Brahm passed in July and whose life we celebrated at FUPC in August.

I continue to be enormously grateful for this congregation and for the dedication of its leaders.

With thanks for all of you,  
Pastor Katie

**Active Membership**  
**First United Presbyterian Church Las Vegas, New Mexico**  
**December 2021 (n=74)**

Abreu, Pam	Lindeborg, Richard	Thatcher, Maxine
Apodaca, Susan	Linder, Carol	Trigg, Tom
Allen-Reid, Debra	Litherland, Carol	Trujillo, Ann Taylor
	Litherland, Christina	Trujillo, Art
Baker, Murl	Litherland, Nicoletta (Nicky)	Trujillo, Bonnie
Beurskens, Frank	Litherland, Kenneth	Trujillo, Carolina (Carly)
Beurskens, Jan	Long, Judy	Trujillo, Celina
Buchanan, Renee	Lopez, Rosalie	Trujillo, Connie
	Lyne, Karyl	Trujillo, Diego
Carlson, Robin		
Crespin, Irene (Estrada)	Martinez, Karlene	Urech, Beth
Croto, Jim	Monnheimer, Don	
Croto, Sean	Monnheimer, Maridell	Vander Meer, Bob
Croto, Siobhan	Mountjoy, Rustie	Vander Meer, Sharon
Cunningham, Linda		Veit, Gay
	Owens, Donald	
De Herrera, Theresa		Weinrich, Maria
Dimsey, Pauline	Palmer, D.R.	Weinstein, Claire
Ditton, Alex		Weinstein, Lisa
	Reid, Kent	Wertz, Bruce
Estrada, Amos	Roe, Sharon (Litherland)	Wootton, Charlotte
	Ruprecht, Judi	
Geng, Bud		
Geng, Rebecca	Salas, Fred	
	Salman, Julianne	
Hagar, Frank	Samuelson Reyman Cozad, Trudi	
Halverson, Cordell (Corky)	Schipper, Mary	
	Seto, Sharon	
Igondou, Jackson Awuzing	Soderlund, Renee	
	Solyntjes, Linda	
Johnson, Bryan (Brendon Stefano)	Spicer, Denice	
Johnson, Kevin	Spicer, Norman	
Johns, Nina Marquez	Spicer, Waymoth	
	Swan, Van	
Kretz, Betty		

**CLERK'S REPORT**  
**CHURCH STATISTICS**  
**JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**PULPIT SUPPLY**

Rev. Katie Palmer  
Permanent Pastor

**MODERATOR OF SESSION**

Rev. Katie Palmer

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Active Member gains**

Three (3) by Reaffirmation of Faith

**Active Member losses**

Seven (7)

**Prior to December 31, 2021**

Active Members: Seventy-eight (78)

Affiliate Members: Zero (0)

Baptized Members: Twenty-six (26)

**Action taken by Session,**

**December 15, 2021**

Members removed from roll: Zero (0)

**Membership as of December 31, 2021**

Active Members: Seventy-five (75)

Affiliate Members: Zero (0)

Baptized Members: Twenty-six (26)

**SPECIFIC MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

**Losses: Eight (8)**

**Deaths: Six (6)**

Joyce Litherland

Bernie Meadows

Chuck Peterson

Betty Quick

Patrick Rucker

**Transfers: Two (2)**

Karen Topping Billingsley

Rod Billingsley

**Gains: Three (3)**

**New Members: Two (2)**

Ann Taylor Trujillo

Maria Weinrich

**Reactivated Member: One (1)**

Nina Marquez Johns

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS 2021



In addition to the normal upkeep, such as changing light bulbs & batteries, plumbing problems, fire safety, etc., B&G was able to do several projects.

### 1000 Douglas

1. Built a ½ wall with cabinets to separate the Tech Crew in the Sanctuary.
2. Built a ½ door to separate the office from the outside.
3. Arranged for a gate at the top of the stairway.
4. Helped with the installation of the security system.
5. Installed a new window in the door to the courtyard, and installed a new door latch to prevent anyone from getting locked in the courtyard.
6. Painted the handrails in both the front and back of the church.
7. With the guidance of Denice, cleared “stuff” out of the room at the top of stairs and moved things that are seldom used from the janitor's closet to that room to get rid of clutter.
8. Contacted Plunkett’s Pest Control to once again get rid of bats and seal up the building.

### OTM

1. Moved the shed and got rid of the old concrete at the west end.
2. Got new concrete and gravel to replace the old.
3. Repaired the sagging floor at the southeast door to the sanctuary.
4. Got an electrician to wire the heaters that were installed last year.
5. Built a barrier to the entrance to the parking lot.
6. Cleaned out the closet in the foyer to use to store chairs.
7. Started repair of the plaster.

We would again like to acknowledge and thank Roger Isbel for his help and equipment in doing much of the work at OTM.

Corky Halverson, Chair, Charlotte Wootton, Don Owens, Robin Carlson



## COLUMBARIUM 2021

The focus of the columbarium, the memorial garden and the memorial plaque is to provide a beautiful, quiet and meditative space in the center of our church building. Judy Long, Tom Trigg and Charlotte Wootton keep the plantings thriving and blooming, and the courtyard clean.

This year we redid the cracked and degraded flagstone floor of the courtyard and added an attractively designed concrete floor, with ramps replacing the stairs and a handrail. We also put lovely designed metal around the memorial plaque that will be maintenance free, replacing the deteriorating wood.

The ashes of Joyce and Ray Litherland and Robert Cutler (Carol Linder's dad) were added to the columbarium this year. Names added to the Memorial plaque were Richens and Evelyn Wootton, Arletta Bailey (Charlotte's parents and grandma), John Detterick and Joyce Litherland.

There are 20 original niches in the columbarium, with three still available. If you are interested in exploring this option for yourself or loved ones, please speak to Judy Long, Tom Trigg or Pastor Katie.

We are planning to expand the columbarium this coming year so there will always be niches available as a final resting place inside the First United Presbyterian Church.

The Memorial Plaque has names and birth and death dates of members and friends of the church who have died. It's a way to remember and memorialize someone dear to you. There is a donation of \$100 that pays for the brass engraved plate.

Please come and explore the space, pray, celebrate those who have gone before us and refresh your soul.

Judy Long



This year, our Christian Education program included our Sunday morning Bible-based class for adults and youth, special Lenten and Advent studies, and a book study. Classes were held online through Zoom.

**Sunday Morning Bible-Based Class for Adults and Youth** (Led by Elder Richard Lindeborg) Average attendance 8-10.

**January:** Continuation of 2020 Advent Series: *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* by Timothy Keller. (3 sessions)

**January-February:** *He said – I am ... and He is* by Glenn C. Carlson (4 sessions)

**April-June:** *Virus as a Summons to Faith: Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief and Uncertainty* by Walter Brueggemann and *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath* by N.T. Wright (8 Sessions)

**June-August:** *The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross* by Jon Meacham (9 sessions)

**August-October:** *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story*, by Diana Butler Bass. (10 sessions)

**November:** John Donne's Holy Sonnets (3 sessions)

**Lenten and Advent Studies** (Led by Elder Richard Lindeborg) Average attendance 8-10.

**Lenten Study:** *Are We There Yet? Pilgrimage in the Season of Lent*, with an introduction by Marek P. Zabriskie. In this book, each chapter is written by a different author or two. Pub: Forward Movement (5 sessions)

**Advent Study:** *The Road to Bethlehem: Musings on the Coming King* by Celeste Allen (4 sessions)

**Book Study** (Led by Pastor Katie Palmer) Attendance approx. 12

**March:** *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh. (1 session)

Submitted by Richard Lindeborg





## COMMUNITY LIFE 2021

Although the Covid pandemic has put a damper on some traditional community life activities, we have adapted and been flexible in our delivery of community activities for the congregation throughout this second year of the pandemic.

The members of the community life committee are Pam Abreu (Chair), Judy Long, Nina Marquez Johns, Renee Soderlund, and Ann Taylor Trujillo. Pam Abreu wishes to thank these members of the committee for always being willing to step up, for their creativity, and their desire to do what we can within the Covid safe protocols.

January 2021	Ghost Ranch retreat scheduled for Fall 2021 postponed to Fall 2022 due to Covid pandemic
February 2021	Mailed Valentine cards to all members and friends of FUPC Began collecting funds (secretly) to celebrate Linda Solyntjes' service to the church
March 2021	Unity Orchard Zoom celebration Presented Linda with an original Meredith Britt collage of FUPC, with Linda's doggies sitting out front, organized a card shower for her
April 2021	Zoom Bingo (as a side note Joyce Litherland and her family members won the majority of the games)
June/July 2021	Suggested members host small group gatherings within Covid safe protocols Partnered with WAM to build, fill, and deliver spirit boxes
September 2021	Looking forward to a fall picnic; however, with Covid numbers again on the increase, we were forced to cancel our plans Delivered "God is (T)Here" maps to congregation and mailed maps to those out of town
October 2021	Had planned to have another Zoom bingo; however, had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances
November 2021	Purchased and decorated two Christmas trees representing FUPC and Community Orchard for Christmas tree cash mob to benefit community soup kitchens – auction will be in December from Plaza Hotel Collected men's underwear to donate to Samaritan House

December 2021      Partnered with Deacons to bake, package, and deliver Christmas cookies to members of the congregation and friends of FUPC



## ANNUAL DEACONS REPORT 2021

MEETINGS: Monthly, on the 4th Monday @ 11 AM, in person, or on Zoom.

CURRENT DEACONS: Mary Schipper (chair) , Juli Salman ( Secretary), Bonnie Trujillo , Sharon Vander Meer, Rosalie Lopez, Renee Soderlund

*Note---We are always praying for additional interest among the FUPC membership to round out our number of Deacons to nine, instead of 6.*

**\*\*This has been an unusual year due to the ongoing coronavirus, so, many of the duties of the Deacons which involve communion preparation, visiting the sick, taking communion to those who are homebound, funeral services, ushering, and fellowship have been curtailed by public health restrictions on public gathering.**

**PRAYER SHAWLS:** We have distributed blessed shawls to 7 recipients, who were experiencing a major life event, surgery or illness.

**PRAYER GROUPS:** The church membership and friends have all been assigned to a Prayer Group, led by one of the 6 current deacons. The deacons are praying for their group members, offering assistance, meals, or transportation as might be needed. During these pandemic times, the Deacons have tried to make regular contact with their group members through cards, emails, and phone conversations.

**SAMARITAN HOUSE MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION:** The community is invited to donate food to Samaritan House, which is then delivered for distribution.

**CARD MINISTRY:** Kevin Johnson is a past ordained deacon, who has made it her ministry to send out birthday cards to the church community.

**HOLIDAY COOKIE DELIVERY:** The Deacons, along with Community Life, prepared and delivered cookies to the church community at Christmas time.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** The Deacons send a monthly contribution to the three soup kitchens in Las Vegas. We also approve the pastor's use of discretionary funds to those in need. The Deacons budget is used for the Samaritan House meals that are prepared twice weekly by church members and friends.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Schipper



## **JOINT OPERATING TEAM/OLD TOWN MISSION COMMUNITY CENTER (OTMCC) 2021**

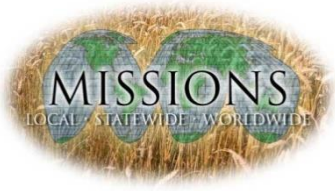
As we continued to be heavily impacted by the Public Health ramifications of the pandemic, 2021 saw more facilities improvements than program implementation. The following is a list of additions and/or repairs made to the physical plant of Old Town Mission Community Center, the lion's share being done by our own Buildings and Grounds Committee.

- SimpliSafe Security equipment was purchased and installed.
- A new high security cabinet for storage of higher value equipment was installed.
- The concrete outside the kitchen/parking lot entrance was replaced leaving a much safer approach and more appealing main entry with improved drainage.
- The storage shed was moved to accommodate future roof changes and cleaned out, making space for additional tables and chairs in the future.
- The parking lot security was improved by the addition of large rocks across the north side and padlocked chains across the two entrances.
- Chair storage was relocated to a closet in the Narthex.
- Opaque window film was installed on the lower sash of the large windows to improve security.
- Various patches were made in broken plaster.
- New quieter gas heaters and remote control thermostats were installed.
- New LED strip lighting was installed in the Assembly Room for youth events, also remote controlled.

Besides these welcomed improvements, we should remark on the following:

- The Go Fund Me Campaign for loss of equipment was completed.
- We conducted a successful yard sale for program expenses raising over \$1800.
- The Las Vegas Youth Council and the SPOT Youth Team continued to meet as COVID conditions allowed.
- The United World College held an event to spotlight areas where students and staff can help with Las Vegas/San Miguel County problems.
- We joined in an effort to address the food desert in West Las Vegas through the Food Depot's Mobile Food Pantry efforts.
- We welcomed two valuable new community JOT members: next door neighbor Irene Encinias who was the driving force for the yard sale, and Star Ford, who at the very end of the year learned that she received a grant for programming for disabled youth to be run at OTMCC.

Many thanks to our dedicated team and to Buildings and Grounds for a great year!



## MISSION AND PEACEMAKING 2021

Mission and Peacemaking (M&P) continues to lead the church in reaching local, state, national and international communities through advocacy, education, prayer, and donations.

Every week prior to the church service on Sunday, M&P committee members continued to take turns writing prayers to be included with the prayers of the people during worship. A question about the prayers prompted us this year to share contextual information in a series of newsletter articles as to why we are praying for Israel/Palestine; advocacy and those who advocate for the powerless, homeless, and hungry; Principe de Paz /border issues, and Menaul School/education. We hope these articles which appeared in the June, July, August and December 2021 newsletters were informative and led others to pray and work toward a more peaceful and just world.

M&P in the past has encouraged the congregation to write messages of hope and support to prisoners of conscience and messages for release to those who imprison them around the world in Amnesty International's Write for Rights efforts. This year again, due to COVID, it was a bit curtailed with Carrol and Bob Pearson sending out packets to those in our M&P group who said they would write, instead of being able to distribute the materials to write during fellowship in Perea Hall.

Given our role as an Advocacy Church and a Matthew 25 Church, M&P has continued in 2021 to urge our church members to respond to the Action Alerts from the PCUSA Office of Public Witness as they feel moved to regarding social justice issues. We also found it helpful to use RetakeOurDemocracy.org to track state legislation as well as following Lutheran Advocacy becoming apprised of their 2021 Advocacy Agenda and updates. We also noted where we took up new advocacies (support of prison ministries summer camp and Amnesty International's June 26, Torture Awareness Day advocating for the closure of Guantanamo) and reinforced old ones (HOPE, border ministries and Menaul School) as individuals and as a group.

This year we were able to give \$50 to HOPE to help with their work transporting folks to their medical appointments and procedures. We planned to use our portion (\$256) of the Pentecost Special Offering to sponsor one child to attend the prison ministries summer camp hosted in Glorieta; however, the camps were cancelled due to COVID. We plan to support them next summer when hopefully the camps will be able to resume. For this year we donated the \$256 instead to our local Big Brothers Big Sisters, who were quite grateful. We also collected Angel Tree gifts for children of incarcerated individuals, and Murl Baker made cookies for each family and he and Pat delivered them to a most excited bunch of children at each household. Thanks to all who purchased the gifts for the eight families we were assigned here in Las Vegas. Related to this Christmas time giving you might remember the Shepherd's Purse Shoe Boxes we did Christmas 2020. We got a report from them that over 9 million shoe boxes were distributed worldwide, and 519 of those shoe boxes were from Las Vegas!

M&P resumed our support of Camino De Vida Church ministry in Albuquerque by including a check for \$200 with the letter of thanks that went out to Rev. Guillermo Yela for his Lenten presentation to our congregation. We also continued to financially support our Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta in Indonesia, Carol and Leith Fujii in Thailand, and Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar at the Border with donations of \$100 for each of them.

Many of our congregation have been giving to Pasos de Fe, the focus of our border ministry giving for some time. We got a report in April from Bill Rose, Vice President of Pasos de Fe y Esperanza in El Paso that Pasos de Fe was taking care of up to 38 migrants on the Juarez, Mexico side of the border and that they took gift boxes for the children on April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Day of the Child. We have not been able to send funds yet to Pasos de Fe because they decided to fiscally operate only within Mexico. We are hopeful that the El Paso-side Pasos de Fe will soon have the legal paperwork in place to accept donations in support of the work on the Mexico side where there is the greatest need for supporting migrant families awaiting decisions on their US immigration/asylum cases.

This year while we waited and continue to wait, we accrued \$724.57 of border ministry designated offerings. M&P split these between Frontera de Cristo (supporting our mission coworkers, Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar with \$100 and the work of the Migrant Resource Center in Agua Prieta with \$312.29) and Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey/Pastora Rose Mary Sánchez-Guzemán in El Paso with \$312.28. You may remember that a group from the church, community members serving on the Understanding Immigration Task Force, and college LIFT (Living In Faith Together) students participated in Cristo Rey's Border Immersion Program fall of 2019. Due to COVID, Cristo Rey has not been able to host groups, their major way of funding the ministries of their church whose members come from the migrant population with little financially to give to the church, but a lot to offer spiritually to our group and others. They thank you, I am certain, for your offerings.

M&P led the church in participating in all 4 of the PCUSA special offerings, and as always, we are amazed and touched by the generosity of our congregation. (1) Our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering of \$1,172.60 supported Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Presbyterian Hunger Fund (PHF) and Presbyterian Self-Development Fund. (2) The Pentecost Offering of \$640 supported youth activities and M&P designated the 25% (\$256) which remained here to our local Big Brothers Big Sisters program. (3) The Peace and Global Witness Offering of \$405.51 supports peacemaking efforts and the 25% (\$101.38) remaining here we used to support Lutheran Family Services resettlement of Afghan refugees in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. And finally (4) the Christmas Joy Offering of \$1068.71, supports retired church workers in need; and racial-ethnic education at Menaul School in Albuquerque; Pan Am University in Kingsville, Tx.; and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Thanks to you all!

As if that were not enough, during our Christmas in July PCUSA Giving Catalog Garden Well Project, you all gave \$2,705.00 - enough for us to purchase almost two wells for communities in need of an easily accessed source of water.

Once again FUPC M&P Members made up the core of the CROP Hunger Walk Planning Team. With COVID still an ever-present reality, organizers once again went with individual walks with online giving and posting pictures of walks on the website. The response was astounding. The total raised was \$18,038 as of November 27 with \$13,940 of that given online: \$3000 more than our goal. The local split between our local agencies, Comedor de San Pascual Soup Kitchen, the Las Vegas Community Soup Kitchen, and the Samaritan House will be \$1503.17 each. The plan is to continue this method of mini walks and online giving. We will be losing Kevin Murphy as our advisor for next year. You might remember him from the Minute for Mission that he did promoting the Crop Walk. Kudos to him for his service. And, kudos to all you walkers!

Despite the ongoing pandemic there has been a lot going on at the Old Town Mission Church under JOT, another of the programs we keep apprised of and support where we can. They recouped the losses from theft

and have upped the security of the building and are looking to repair the roof over the kitchen and paint the inside. The hope is to have more programming when COVID allows. The parking lot however, soon in 2022 will be seeing action with a Mobile Food Pantry distributing food to those in need on the west side of Las Vegas. This may be the opportunity you are looking for. Come join us on the second Friday each month starting in March.

M&P suggested and paid the \$100 registration fee for Pastor Katie to attend this year's Hosanna Preaching Seminar, a program of the Israel-Palestine Mission Network of PC-USA, a 9-hour, multi-week online space connecting Palestine solidarity and the Black freedom struggle. We were excited that she was able to attend and that she found it beneficial to her work in our church. We were also involved giving input for the Lilly Grant Proposal for Pastor Sabbatical and Church Renewal. We/the whole church and Pastor Katie are so lucky to have been awarded this grant. We are lucky to have in our midst the many creative folks who envisioned and wrote the proposal. It will be our challenge in 2022 to be the renewal we seek.

Members of the Mission & Peacemaking Committee during 2021 included Murl Baker, Pat Halverson, Joyce Litherland, Rosie Lopez, Karyl Lyne, Bob Pearson, Carrol Pearson, and Tom Trigg. Sadly, Joyce Litherland passed away in May this year. We would like to recognize her for her commitment to M&P and so much more during her decades of service to FUPC. We were lucky to have her time and talent so freely and joyously given to so many projects while she was with us. I am sure she will keep us on track from Heaven.

Carol Litherland, Chair  
Mission & Peacemaking Committee



## MUSTARD SEED 2021

The Mustard Seed Committee only received two applications for grants this year despite widely advertising the opportunity in the Optic, on the radio, and through social media. Both requests were deemed worthy of funding.

- NMHU Foundation received a grant of \$1000 for free Friday Family Art Nights at Kennedy Gallery. This was planned to take place in coordination with the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual New Mexico Painter's Exhibition that was held September 12 through October 31. However, because of an upswing in COVID cases in Las Vegas, they decided to postpone the in-person event until 2022. That request was granted.
- Main Street de Las Vegas was awarded a grant of \$1500 for the Las Vegas Community Garden and Park. These funds were used for startup expenses and were matched by The Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation. To date they have cleared the land, installed 8 wooden garden beds, begun a Hopi Garden, begun a 30-foot HugelKulture bed and begun working with the city to get water service.

The Mustard Seed committee lost three members due to death this year, Joyce Litherland, Patrick Rucker, and Chuck Peterson. Their faithful service and commitment to the Mustard Seed program will be greatly missed. Current members are co-chairs Carol Linder and Corky Halverson, Sharon Vander Meer, and Kevin Johnson.



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2021

### Ruling Elders:

The terms of D. R. Palmer and C. K. Halverson ended July 31, 2021. (This is the first term of office for each.) They each agreed to be nominated (and to serve if elected) to a second term as Ruling Elder. They each were nominated by the Nominating Committee at the Congregational Meeting, and were elected to a second term as Ruling Elder.

Carol Linder and Judy Long finished partial terms July 31, 2021, having previously been elected as mid-term replacements. They each agreed to be nominated (and to serve if elected) to a second full term as Ruling Elder. They each were nominated by the Nominating Committee at the Congregational Meeting and were elected as Ruling Elders.

This left 2 positions open (starting Aug 1, 2021) on the Session. None of the potential candidates that we considered were willing to be nominated.

### Deacons:

The Committee nominated Sharon Vander Meer to serve another term as a Deacon (her third term, ending July 31, 2023). She had previously stated her willingness to be nominated and to serve if elected. She was nominated by the Nominating Committee at the congregational Meeting and was elected to the Deacons.

### Chart of Officers:

See below.

### Nominating Committee Annual Report, 2021

**Current Officers:** All terms of office are two years. The terms start on August 1 of the year of election. Regular elections are held in June of each year, at a Congregational meeting. Elders and Deacons are limited to three consecutive terms. Nominating Committee members have no term limit.

### Ruling Elders (2 year terms) (up to Nine Members, per Session resolution, 2020 )

Current Membership		Current Term Ends	At the end of their current term, the Member will have served:
1	Tom Trigg	2022	2 terms
2	Carol Litherland	2022	1 term

3	Carol Linder	2023	2 terms (Carol started in Feb, 2020, as a replacement)
4	Pam Abreu	2022	1 term (Pam started in Jan, 2021, as a replacement)
5	Judy Long	2023	1 term (Judy started in Jan, 2021, as a replacement)
6	D.R. Palmer	2023	2 terms
7	Corky Halverson	2023	2 terms
8	Karyl Lyne	2023	1 term

#### **Deacons (2 year terms) (Six Members)**

<b>Current Membership</b>		<b>Current Term Ends</b>	<b>At the end of their current term, the Member will have served:</b>
1	Mary Schipper	2022	3 terms
2	Bonnie Trujillo	2022	2 terms
3	Juli Salman	2022	2 terms
4	Rosie Lopez	2022	1 term
5	Renee Soderlund	2022	1 term
6	Sharon Vander Meer	2023	3 terms

#### **Nominating Committee (2 year terms) (Five Members)**

<b>---</b>	<b>Current Membership</b>	<b>Current Term Ends</b>
1	Bonnie Trujillo	2022
2	Kent Reid	2022
3	Van Swan	2022
4	Mary Schipper	2022
5	Corky Halverson	2022



## PERSONNEL 2021

Committee members during 2021 were Judy Long (Chair), Pat Halverson, Don Monnheimer, and Judi Ruprecht. Katie Palmer attended all meetings.

The committee reviewed all paid staff in yearly evaluations, and approved the Pastor's leave requests. Terms of call for the Pastor were submitted to Presbytery.

Our long-time Office Manager Linda Solyntjes retired in April of 2021. We began a job search after receiving her resignation, as well as updating the Office Manager job description. After interviewing two able candidates, Crystal Western Ford was hired and began work on March 22, 2021. Linda stayed on as a consultant to help train Crystal in this complicated and demanding job (Thank you Linda). After 3 months' probation, Crystal was made a permanent Office Manager with a small raise.

Pablo Hernandez continued to be supervised by the Office Manager, now Crystal, and expectations of his job description were clarified. He will continue to work through 2022.

Katie and a committee worked on the Renewal Grant which we did receive. That will begin in late spring 2022, for the three months of Pastor Katie's sabbatical. Pat Halverson and Randy Campbell will be hired to fill the needed pastor duties during that time. Job descriptions and compensation will be worked out in early 2022.

The 2022 budget was developed with raises for Pastor Katie, Em Krall pianist and accompanist, and Crystal on her one-year anniversary. A new position for part-time Social Media Consultant was requested in the budget and approved for 5 hours a week. The job description and search will begin in early 2022.

Christmas bonuses were distributed to all paid staff.

With thanks to all paid and unpaid people who do God's work in this church.  
In Christ, Judy Long



## SAMARITAN HOUSE COOKING TEAM 2021

The Samaritan House Cooking Team has continued cooking with enthusiasm. This concludes our 3<sup>rd</sup> year (in November). We have been cooking a hot meal, usually a casserole, each Friday evening. In the three years, by my memory, we have only missed one Friday meal. The Samaritan House folks are very complimentary of our meals. We have developed some very good recipes.

Samaritan House has completed their on-site kitchen and it is certified as a commercial kitchen. In the past, they received four hot meals each week, donated by us and by various restaurants. Various factors, including the pandemic, have reduced this and currently they are only receiving two hot meals each week, one from us and one from a local restaurant. The other days have meals cooked on-site.

During the first year of the pandemic, they were only serving food at the door, essentially a sack lunch. They asked if we could help and we have been making 20-24 sack lunches per week, originally on Mondays but now on Tuesdays. This has continued, but now the building is open (with masks required) and food is served in the dining room.

Our current team members are Van Swan (scheduler), Jan Beurskens (menu planner), Pam Abreu (kitchen director), and the following cooks: John Arnold, Bernadette Lujan, Murl Baker, Judy Long, D.R. Palmer, Mary Schipper, Mary Shaw, Denice Spicer, Tom Trigg, and Charlotte Wootton. Karen Topping serves as our runner, fetching our used pots and pans and our insulated delivery box and bringing them back to the church each week.

So far, we have stayed within our budget with help from various donors who have supplemented our finances. Thank you all for your generosity. As most of you know, food prices have risen a lot. Without the extra donations, we would have had a hard time.

For 2022, we have already increased the number of servings per meal. The number of customers jumped up a good bit with the onset of cold weather. We expect this to continue at least through the Spring. We work with the Samaritan House staff on this issue.

Van Swan



## TECHNOLOGY 2021

In 2021, FUPC invested in technology to enable Hybrid Worship and to upgrade our church computers.

Hybrid Worship is a mix of on-line and on-site participation, where congregants and leaders can be in person in the Sanctuary or remote via Zoom. Enabling it required the purchase of two computers, four monitors, a remote-controlled camera, and associated hardware. To support overflow seating in Perea Hall, we added a motorized screen, projector, and speakers plus associated hardware.

Our talented Buildings and Grounds committee created a beautiful Audio/Visual Center at the back of the sanctuary that echoes the woodwork on the chancel wall. The center provides space for the equipment and the three operators needed to operate the system: one to run sound, one to create the video livestream for Zoom, and one to run the Zoom meeting itself plus run the slides for the sanctuary monitors. I can't even guess what it would have cost to hire someone to build the center; because of the talent in our congregation, it cost us only a small amount for materials.

The total cost of the Hybrid Worship technology and the AV Center materials was \$13,486. Thanks to some generous donations, the cost to the church was only \$9,853.

We also upgraded the Office Manager and Pastor computers, which were so old they were running Windows 7 (released in 2009). We now have new HP computers for them running Windows 11 and with the latest versions of Microsoft Office. The Office Manager has a 21" All-In-One computer and the Pastor has a 15" laptop with 21" desktop monitor. Each system has an ergonomic keyboard and mouse, plus a standing desk unit that lets them work standing up or sitting down.

The total cost of the computer upgrades was \$2,153.

Respectfully submitted,  
D.R. Palmer



## TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURE (TTT, OR TT&T) 2021

2021 began with the committee creating a narrative church budget for distribution to the congregation at February's annual congregational meeting along with the traditional numerical budget.

### *Transition of Treasurer Responsibilities*

Mary Schipper faithfully and cheerfully served as church treasurer from January 2018 through July 31, 2021 in addition to her head Deacon responsibilities. We appreciate Mary's commitment and willingness to work closely with TTT, Session, Office Managers Linda Solyntjes and Crystal Western Ford, and all committee chairs to maintain the integrity of our church finances.

Denice Spicer and Pam Abreu joined TTT and quickly became vital members of the committee. Denice served as assistant treasurer for the first seven months of the year and assumed the role of Treasurer in August. Both Denice and Pam bring a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to the committee and have devoted much time and energy to learning our church accounting software (Church Windows).

### *Review of 2020 Finances*

Two members from the TTT committee completed the required annual review of the financial books and found no evidence of malfeasance. Session adopted a number of recommendations to more accurately post, track, and present FUPC finances. The most significant recommendations are listed below. Committee members have worked with the treasurer, office manager, and committee chairs to implement the recommendations.

Align and adhere to Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) practices.

Review and restructure the Church Windows Chart of Accounts to include:

- **renaming accounts to clarify matching fund, income, and expense accounts,**
- **grouping accounts with similar functions**
- **eliminating redundancy**
- **deleting accounts that are no longer active**

Create reports that will allow Session and committees to more easily track transactions and improve budget management and understanding.

Develop a file with complete documentation on any endowments or special accounts so the FUPC knows the ultimate disposition of each of them.

## 2022 Chart of Accounts

The 2022 annual budget reflects a new numbering system and organization newly adopted Chart of Accounts. TTT also added some new abbreviations to make it easier to keep track of income and expenses, including tracking of designated giving and pass-through donations (e.g., national offerings) by our congregation.

Pam Abreu took the lead on the momentous task of creating a new chart of accounts. 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 2022 budget uses the new Chart of Accounts. The following tables will help you understand and interpret the budget.

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
X.90.XXX	Grants (e.g., Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant)

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 care 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

### ***2022 Budget***

The year ended with preparing the 2022 budget. Draft budgets were submitted in October and Denice, Pam, and I met with committee chairs throughout November to go over the new chart of accounts and create a draft

budget. The Committee held the annual budget meeting virtually on December 4 with interested members of the congregation and submitted a revised budget that the session approved in December.

### ***Do Christ's Work in the World***

We are fortunate to have significant undesignated bequests because of the generosity of former members and friends. Session is asking for input as to how best to use this money to grow our faith, seek justice, or build community. While we have received several ideas, including proposals to make much needed repairs to the Old Town Mission Community Center and upgrading and expanding the capabilities of our commercial kitchen, we are still looking for input. 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 in 2022 and beyond to do Christ's work in the world.

Carol Linder

Chair, Time, Talents, & Treasure

Members: Pam Abreu, Richard Lindeborg, Denice Spicer, and Van Swan (Mary Schipper was a member through July 2021).

## TRUSTEES

The Trustees are the officers of the corporation responsible for church properties. Trustees 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 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.

Session has purchased SimpliSafe Security Systems for both 1000 Douglas and the Old Town Mission (OTM) Community Center. Last year's theft at the OTM and our recent significant investment in technology to bring high quality hybrid worship services to our church family have raised our awareness of our current vulnerabilities. While we are all excited to be back worshipping in our church buildings, we want to make sure that the buildings are secure. Carol Linder and Tom Trigg are taking the lead in managing the security systems which will be fully implemented in 2022.

We completed the required annual review of our church property insurance in November. Judy Long worked with Philipp Sutherland from Brotherhood Mutual. For 2022, we removed the 4% automatic increase and went with a broadened valuation form. Our physical plant, including 1000 Douglas and the Old Town Mission Community Center, is now valued at \$1.5 million. We increased coverage on the bells and organ and lowered the deductible to \$2,500. Our property is covered for replacement costs. These adjustments mean that our 2022 annual premium increased to \$10,236 from \$9,557 in 2021.

A huge thank you to Tom Trigg for serving as the primary account manager for our Vanguard Investment for that the last couple of years. Judy Long has now assumed this role, with Carol Linder serving as a secondary account manager. Last fall we reviewed and consolidated our investments transferring 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. Following the recommendations of financial advisor John Bender, we are adjusting our investments to keep approximately \$60,000 in the money market account (~22% of our portfolio) and investing the remaining ~\$218,190 into three funds over the next four to six months. Our portfolio will have 50% in stock fund and 50% in bonds.

We received a generous undesignated bequest from life-long member Joyce Litherland in the form of a CD and life insurance policy which named the church as beneficiary. Joyce died just after her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 11, 2021. Joyce will be forever remembered for her love of this church and its family. She was an ardent supporter of the Mustard Seed Grant Program, served as the church treasurer and chair of the Interpretation and Support committee (aka TTT) for many years and served as chair of many other committees. Joyce was an active member of Session at the time of her passing chairing the nominating committee and 2020 task force. She was also a wonderful musician and was a member of the bell and vocal choirs. We look forward to using her gift to continue to do God's work in our community and beyond.



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC 2021

The Worship and Music committee (WAM), like everyone, had to make many adjustments during the year as COVID waxed and waned. With the experience of 2020, we were all pretty comfortable with Zoom for worship and meetings. In 2021, we moved forward to return to the Sanctuary in June with the option to also attend via Zoom. As the year progressed, we had roughly half attending in person and half on Zoom.

Some positives about hybrid worship:

- **Those who feel safe to be in groups can meet in person. The vast majority of the congregation is vaccinated and boosted, but there is always the chance of a breakthrough case.**
- **Folks who need to isolate, or feel more comfortable staying away from groups, can still worship with us. We have a laptop in the narthex so those entering can say hello to those who are remote.**
- **We have continued our connections to friends far away, including Colorado, Massachusetts, Montana, Virginia, and even Canada.**
- **We have a larger pool of worship leaders available, since we can include long-distance folks. We even had a guest Zoom in to preach.**
- **We post the worship service video recording on Facebook and on our website, which allows us to attend at our convenience if we are unable to join live on Sunday morning.**

You may notice that our worship services follow a theme that changes as we move through the year. The themes and sermon series for 2021 were:

“On the Way with Jesus” in January  
“Looking Beyond the Blinders” in Lent  
“Moved by the Spirit” in Easter season  
“God’s BIG Picture” in the summer  
“God is [T]here” in September - October  
“God Gives Us...” in October - November  
“Be Filled and Spring Forth” in Advent

To visualize these themes, we often include visual elements in the Sanctuary, such as:

- **a large inflatable globe for “God is [T]here”,**
- **an ever-growing cornucopia for “God Gives Us...” or**
- **a water jug with flowing “water” (light blue fabric) spilling out over the communion table for “Be Filled and Spring Forth.”**

We also change the banners with the liturgical seasons (Blue for Advent, White for the Christmas season, Purple for Lent, White for Easter season, Red for Pentecost, Green for “ordinary time”).

Be sure to keep an eye out for these changes in the Sanctuary and let the visual elements help you to enter more fully into worship. Many thanks to Charlotte Wootton and Susan Apodaca for the Sanctuary Design, and to Tom Trigg for hanging our banners.

In keeping with the “Looking Beyond the Blinders” theme for Lent, we hosted a two-part Zoom lecture series to hear directly from communities we may not see on a regular basis. As Pastor Katie said, “We want people to reflect on the many ills of the world, especially racism, poverty and addiction as well as to encourage them to reflect on their own deep, personal spiritual journey.” Nelson Capitan, from Laguna Pueblo, discussed Native Peoples; and Rev. Guillermo Yela, pastor of Camino de Vida Church in Albuquerque, told us some of the immigrant experience.

We collaborated with Community Life to send out two at-home packets that coordinated with the worship theme: “Spirit Boxes” for Pentecost and maps to encourage people to track where they have experienced God for the “God is (T)here” theme in the fall.

Given all of the losses and trauma we have all experienced since the pandemic began, we held a “Blue Christmas” service on 12/12/2021, in support of and solidarity with those whose circumstances make it hard to feel joyful during the Christmas season.

Christmas Eve service and the following Sunday service were filled with music and the spoken word. We had participants from St. Paul’s Peace Episcopal/Lutheran church and from the Methodist church. Many thanks to Steve Hufnal, Kevin Zoernig, Jordan Jones, Tegan Palmer, and Em Krall for their music, as well as Mary Rose Henssler, Beth Urech, Jim Croto, Mary Schipper, and of course our Pastor Katie for their readings.

Many thanks to all those who served as worship leader this past year (and to Ann Taylor-Trujillo for coordinating them after Joyce passed), and to all those who participated in creating music.

And special thanks to our leaders who spent many hours figuring it all out: to Pastor Katie, to our music director Karyl Lyne, and to our accompanist Em Krall.

Thanks are also due to the full WAM committee for their creativity and energy in 2021: Karyl Lyne, D.R. Palmer, Katie Palmer, Tom Trigg, Beth Urech, and Charlotte Wootton.

Respectfully submitted,  
D.R. Palmer, chair

# First United Presbyterian Church Las Vegas



Corky Halverson, chair of Buildings and Grounds, hard at work maintaining the Old Town Mission Community Center.



Above: DR Palmer, Jeff Salman, and the late, and much-loved Patrick Rucker providing tech support for hybrid worship.

Right: Highlands University Living in Faith Together (LIFT) Club trip to Ghost Ranch – pre-COVID.



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.

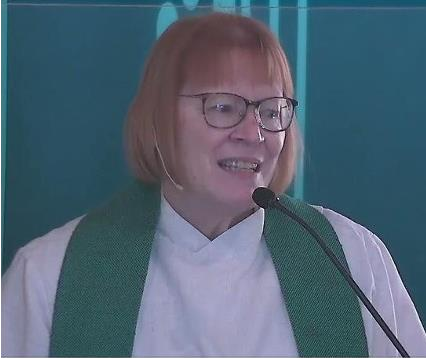
We believe that, in Christ, we can work toward the realization of God's kingdom on earth. Our primary goal

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.



# Called to Do Christ's Work in 2022 and Beyond



*Your continued and generous giving and support allow us to:*

## Grow and Share Our Faith

We provide spiritually-engaging worship in the sanctuary and beyond, weekly Facebook devotionals, and bible-based book studies to learn more about our faith and our role in today's world. In 2022, we will hire someone to further engage our community online and raise awareness of our ministry. 2022 also brings anticipation and excitement as we begin our time of *Tracking the Word: Embodying the Spirit* using grant funds from the Lilly Endowment for a National Clergy Renewal Program.



Top: Pastor Katie Palmer preaching the Word in the sanctuary and beyond through Zoom.

Bottom: Community Life members Pam Abreu and Ann Taylor Trujillo displaying FUPC Christmas Tree donation to Cash Mob auction with proceeds supporting local soup kitchens.

## Seek Justice for All

As a PC(USA) Matthew 25 Church we offer support and comfort, create opportunities for renewal to restore vitality, work to end poverty and fight structural racism. We fight for social justice in public policy as an ELCA (Lutheran) Advocacy Church.

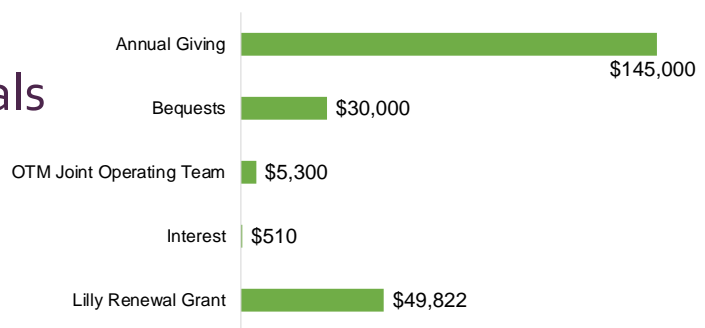
## Build Community

We provide gifts of hospitality, connection, support, and love by hosting small group gatherings, awarding Mustard Seed grants, preparing Samaritan House meals, supporting local soup kitchens, creating ways to meet, learn, work, and play, and supporting the mission and vision of Presbyterian Church USA.

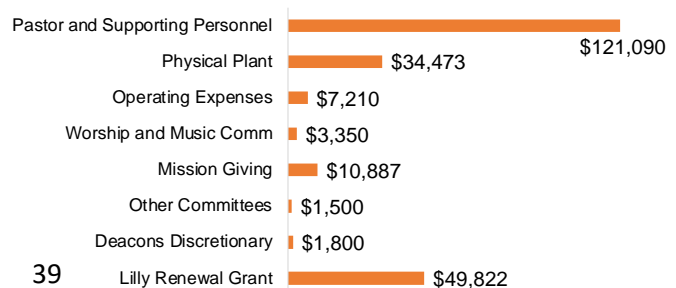
## 2022

## Financials

### PROJECTED INCOME \$230,632



### PROJECTED EXPENSES \$230,632



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### Sunday Schedule

9 – 10 Class, 10:30 Worship