

HELLO FUPC FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

In this mailing you'll find the bulletin for Sunday's worship service. Join us Sunday at 10:30 via zoom by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081>, or by phone (312-626-6799). If you're joining by phone, enter meeting ID 573-920-0081. If you've not used zoom before, follow the instructions provided at the link.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED

Monday, May 23

11:00 a.m. - Deacons

Tuesday, May 24

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

6:30 p.m. - Session

Please check with committee chairs to confirm whether committees will meet as scheduled.



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



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

May 18, 2022

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

As I write this, I am anticipating our return to Las Vegas. I am eager to be home, partly for the familiar comforts of our house, but mostly to be back with church family and to help support the community.

The experience of being here during this time has been a bit surreal. It was definitely unsettling for me to drop off our cats here at the townhouse late the night we arrived and leave them alone while in a strange place while we went to Tegan and Rosalie's house to spend the night. (We didn't get the bed moved for a couple of days.) I know they were left disoriented; I know they missed their familiar surroundings and favorite sleeping places. But they soon settled in and claimed places of their own.

I, too, felt a bit dropped off in an unfamiliar place—not physically, since we know the townhouse (Tegan lived here for a few years) and the general area, but intellectually and emotionally. It's been hard to wrap my head around the reality that, as I sit here, the fire is burning the countryside there. It's hard to feel so connected to what is happening there and yet disconnected, too, since I am not experiencing the smoke and the "feel" of what's happening first-hand. And yet, it is always on my mind.

We have had the perks, while we've been here, of visiting with a couple of Colorado friends, of spending time with Tegan and Rosalie, of seeing Rosalie's graduation ceremony (she is earning her master's in counseling from Adams State) and of seeing her family. We were also able to visit Art and Bonnie Trujillo in the hospital following Art's surgery and to visit Bob and Carrol Pearson in Golden. (They are doing well and are eager to return to New Mexico as soon as they can; they miss you all!) But it is nevertheless disorienting to be here; this isn't how it was "supposed" to be.

I think we can learn a lot by looking at all the times things didn't turn out the way God's people thought they were "supposed" to be. Abraham probably never imagined that his life was "supposed" to take him so far from the home he knew and to have a child so late in life. Those early Hebrews who followed Moses out of Egypt "supposed" they were being led to freedom and a better life, not 40 years of hardship in the desert. Those exiled when Jerusalem fell hadn't imagined they were "supposed" to live as exiles. Neither Mary nor Joseph expected the advent of Jesus in their lives; that's not the way things were "supposed" to be for them. And the early followers of Jesus certainly did not "suppose" their choice to follow him would lead them to upend their lives so completely, to make choices about standing up for the things he led them to; they did not "suppose" Jesus would die for his way of life. One thing, though, was constant for all of these people: God's faithfulness. We can rely on that; God will be faithful to us as we navigate what wasn't "supposed" to be, just as God has always been faithful. Hallelujah!

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, P.O. Box 37, Las Vegas, NM 87701

May 22, 2022 10:30 a.m.

MEDITATION – ...[N]o matter what challenges, adversities you face in life, ...you can overcome them... and once you overcome those adversities, use your story, your testimony to others, to help others get through their storm. – Wayne Messam

WE GATHER TOGETHER

WELCOME Rev. Katie Palmer

PRELUDE Em Krall

PASSING OF THE PEACE Maria Weinrich
*Let us make a commitment during this time to call someone today,
visit with them and wish them the peace of Christ*

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Lamentations 3:22-24)

One: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

All: God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.

One: Great is your faithfulness, O God.

All: “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

One: Let us worship the One who is faithful to us.

OPENING HYMN *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (GTG #39)

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

*We remember that, **before** we confess and no matter what we confess to God,
we can be assured of God’s Love and Mercy*

UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

God of Hope, the storm of fire continues to rage around us and we are feeling shipwrecked—tossed about by the waves of news about the fires, dislocated and anxious. We want to reach out, to do all we can to help others, and yet we are tired. Help us, O God, to take care not only of others, but of ourselves. Remind us that each of us is precious to you and that we need time to process, to rest, and to take nourishment in order to commit to helping those who will need our support not only in the days ahead, but in coming weeks and months. Give us your hope to sustain us, your insight to guide us, and your energizing spirit as we offer our help and support to others. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 27:1 – 28:2; 7-10

When it was decided that we were to sail for Italy, they transferred Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort, named Julius. Embarking on a ship of Adramyttium that was about to set sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica. The next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius treated Paul kindly, and allowed him to go to his friends to be cared for. Putting out to sea from there, we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us. After we had sailed across the sea that is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship bound for Italy and put us on board. We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind was against us, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone. Sailing past it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea.

Since much time had been lost and sailing was now dangerous, because even the Fast had already gone by, Paul advised them, saying, ‘Sirs, I can see that the voyage will be with danger and much heavy loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.’ But the

centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. Since the harbor was not suitable for spending the winter, the majority was in favor of putting to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, where they could spend the winter. It was a harbor of Crete, facing south-west and north-west.

When a moderate south wind began to blow, they thought they could achieve their purpose; so they weighed anchor and began to sail past Crete, close to the shore. But soon a violent wind, called the northeaster, rushed down from Crete. Since the ship was caught and could not be turned with its head to the wind, we gave way to it and were driven. By running under the lee of a small island called Cauda we were scarcely able to get the ship’s boat under control. After hoisting it up they took measures to undergird the ship; then, fearing that they would run on the Syrtis, they lowered the sea-anchor and so were driven. We were being pounded by the storm so violently that on the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard, and on the third day with their own hands they threw the ship’s tackle overboard. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest raged, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul then stood up among them and said, ‘Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and thereby avoided this damage and loss. I urge you now to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For last night there stood by me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, “Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before the emperor; and indeed, God has granted safety to all those who are sailing with you.” So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. But we will have to run aground on some island.’

When the fourteenth night had come, as we were drifting across the sea of Adria, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land. So they took soundings and found twenty fathoms; a little farther on they took soundings again and found fifteen fathoms. Fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. But when the sailors tried to escape from the ship and had lowered the boat into the sea, on the pretext of putting out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, ‘Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.’ Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and set it adrift. Just before daybreak, Paul urged all of them to take some food, saying, ‘Today is the fourteenth day that you have been in suspense and remaining without food, having eaten nothing. Therefore I urge you to take some food, for it will help you survive; for none of you will lose a hair from your heads.’ After he had said this, he took bread; and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, he broke it and began to eat. Then all of them were encouraged and took food for themselves. (We were in all two hundred and seventy-six persons in the ship.) After they had satisfied their hunger, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into the sea.

In the morning they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned to run the ship ashore, if they could. So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea. At the same time they loosened the ropes that tied the steering-oars; then hoisting the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach. But striking a reef, they ran the ship aground; the bow stuck and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the force of the waves. The soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none might swim away and escape; but the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, and the rest to follow, some on planks and others on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

After we had reached safety, we then learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all of us round it. ...

Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. It so happened that the father of Publius lay sick in bed with fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and cured him by praying and putting his hands on him. After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. They bestowed many honors on us, and when we were about to sail, they put on board all the provisions we needed.

MESSAGE

Lessons from the Shipwreck

Rev. Katie Palmer

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

CHECKING IN WITH ONE ANOTHER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

WITH THANKS FOR GENEROUS GIVING

DOXOLOGY

OPPORTUNITIES

WE GO FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

CLOSING HYMN *Faith Begins by Letting Go* (GTG #684)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



OPPORTUNITIES

No Bible-Based Class for adults and youth on Sunday, May 29, for Memorial Day weekend.

The class will resume its discussion of the book *What's So Amazing About Grace* by Philip Yancy on June 5. The sessions, led by Karyl Lyne and Richard Lindeborg, will run through June 19 on Zoom for now from 9 to 10 a.m. 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. The reading assignment for the June 5 class is Ch. 14-15, pp. 177-210.

Don't toss out that glass! The Community Life Committee, in cooperation with a local glass crushing venture and our landscaping committee, will collect your glass bottles and jars, colored or clear, for the months of April and May for a landscaping project. If you can wash them and get the labels off, it is appreciated. Please save your glass until we are able to be physically back in the church building.

Donations can be made to **Goodies for Firefighters**, online or via check, which will be used to reimburse Carol Linder, Juli Salman, Judy Long and Nina Johns for the hundreds of dollars they spent to purchase baking supplies to make over 1,400 bags of cookies for the firefighters. They stood out in the smoky wind for a few hours to hand deliver each bag to the firefighters. Thanks ladies!

For information regarding the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fires, call the state fire resource hotline: 1-800-432-2080.

To send money, donate through the Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation: <https://www.lvnmc.org/donate-now/>. Donations are now being accepted at multiple locations. Please see <https://www.nmhu.edu/hermit/#Donations> for what is needed at which location.

Join us in this call!



The Synod of the Southwest is joining forces with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help support the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine.

The Synod will **match up to \$12,500**, in the aggregate, of those congregations or presbyteries in our region that donate through our website Donate button on the left side navigation menu or by sending a check to the Synod (see information below). **Send funds to be matched by clicking**

here. Use our "Ukraine Fund" from the drop down menu to donate by credit card or send a check to Synod of the Southwest marked Ukraine, 5901 Wyoming Blvd NE, #J-319, Albuquerque, NM 87109. All administration fees will be covered by the Synod so your entire donation is sent to PDA. For more on PDA's response to the war in Ukraine, [click here](#).

Samaritan House Food Donations – May - Rice and beans. Coffee and Tea are always appreciated. Please drop your donations off at Samaritan House, 501 7th Street.

Prayers for the Church Family – Each week we choose some specific names to remind us to pray for each other and for those in our Presbytery. Please pray for Bruce Wertz, Crystal Western Ford and Elisa White as well as First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe, NM (1867).

Assisting in Worship This Week

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer

Director of Music - Karyl Lyne

Office Manager – Crystal Western Ford

Worship Leader – Maria Weinrich

Accompanist – Em Krall

Zoom Host – D.R. Palmer

May Elder of the Month – Carol Linder - 505-429-2139

May Deacon of the Month – Rosie Lopez –505-429-6420

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

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