



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

JULY 2022

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

I have had the opportunity over the last couple of weeks to talk with many people, here in town, during my travels, and with friends who live in various places. The message that always comes through is that we are going through a disorienting time. Especially here, people tell me they are feeling disoriented and bombarded with challenges. It's beginning to sound like an old, familiar tune: COVID, fire, more COVID, the potential for floods, political division and upheaval, personal and corporate loss. I have described it as feeling as if I'm living in an alternate universe. Many things look the same, but they don't feel quite normal. We are off-kilter because, whether or not we have personal loss from any of the things going on around us, we are living within the trauma of it all.

In many ways, we can move forward through this time actively doing what we can—as volunteers, as caregivers, as active citizens in the ballot box or wherever our convictions take us. But in some ways, there is not a lot we can do. We can't wave a magic wand and fix the hurt and pain around us. But we can be there for each other. I share with you here a poem by Ann Weems, which I also shared with the Session recently. I hope you find it meaningful.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

I See Your Pain by Ann Weems

I see your pain
 and want to banish it
 with the wave of a star,
but have no star.

I see your tears
 and want to dry them
 with the hem of an angel's gown,
but have no angel.

I see your heart fallen to the ground
 and want to return it
 wrapped in cloths woven of rainbow,
but have no rainbow.

God is the One
 who has stars, and angels and rainbows,
and I am the one
 God sends to sit beside you
 until the stars come out
 and the angels dry your tears
 and your heart is back in place,
 rainbow blessed.

WORSHIP TIDBITS



As we move into mid-summer, we continue to have many folks take advantage of our hybrid worship format. In fact, last Sunday, the numbers were about half and half between folks who were in the sanctuary and folks who joined worship via Zoom. We are lucky to have a tech crew who makes this possible for folks who, for a variety of reasons, Zoom in rather than walk into the sanctuary. And of course, for those of us who attend in person, it is always a pleasure to have the opportunity to see each other and visit.

Please note that, as COVID cases continue to rise, we strongly encourage you to wear a mask in the sanctuary.

During worship over the next few weeks, we will be inviting the “Work of the Spirit” into our presence—both as an active participant in our worship and in our lives, but also as something we do actively to accomplish God’s work in the world. Much of this work will be focused on the various places in our lives where we need the Spirit’s healing touch.

As we move into August, we will be looking at the wonderful story that is the book of Ruth.

CELEBRATION OF CREATION

First United Presbyterian Church has scheduled a Celebration of Creation including a virtual blessing of the animals on Sunday, July 10. Please submit photos of your pet with the pet’s name and if you like, your last name. Please send them to D.R. Palmer at pathfarer@gmail.com no later than July 6th. We invite the whole community to join us for this service.



A WORD ABOUT THE FIRE

The news today (6/29) is that the Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon fire is more than 90% contained. That is very good news. But as we know, with damage from the fire comes increased risk of flooding during our rainy season. Certainly, those who were displaced by the fire will need support for some time to come.

At our upcoming Presbytery meeting on July 16, people from all over the Presbytery will have an opportunity to learn from two representatives from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance about the kinds of support they offer. FEMA has also worked with community members to establish a long-term recovery group.

Undoubtedly, through the community’s work with these and perhaps other assistance groups, we will have opportunities to volunteer our time and talents toward recovery. Keep your eye on our bulletins and newsletters for updates as we receive them!

To send monetary donations:

<https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/>

<https://www.lvnmc.org/donate-now/>

[https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/article/sharing-the-love-of-](https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/article/sharing-the-love-of-jesus-in-the-wake-of-new-mexicos-fires/)

[jesus-in-the-wake-of-new-mexicos-fires/](https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/article/sharing-the-love-of-jesus-in-the-wake-of-new-mexicos-fires/)

To volunteer for post -fire recovery work:

<https://hermitspeakwatersheds.org/3233-2/>



CLERK'S CORNER

As we move into the summer months, people are looking forward to vacation trips, family visits and a bit of freedom from the routine. At FUPC, we're welcoming the Presbytery of Santa Fe summer meeting to our doors on Saturday, July 16. This meeting will host some 80 or so commissioners from the churches across the northern part of New Mexico—the Santa Fe Presbytery. The southern part of New Mexico is the Sierra Blanca Presbytery. As the FUPC Presbytery Commissioner, I'm helping to coordinate and facilitate the meeting from 10 am to 3 pm in our building. There will be a business meeting in the morning, lunch served by our wonderful Deacons, then another meeting from 1-2 and worship from 2-3. We'll need 2-3 volunteers to greet commissioners as they arrive and register/check-in in the morning between 9 and 10:15 am. If you can help with that, please let me know.

I believe the afternoon meeting may include remarks from two PCUSA Staff, Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Executive Director of PDA and Rev. Jim Kirk, PDA National Response Director. You may remember that PDA, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, is one of the three efforts our Lenten One Great Hour of Sharing Offering goes to each year. The two other efforts supported by OGHS are the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. Because of the devastation of the New Mexico wildfires, WE have become one of those disasters. We may also hear from Rev. Harry Ebert, pastor at Santa Fe First Presbyterian, who has put forth an overture to the General Assembly of PCUSA, to recognize the Guns to Gardens Project across the nation. Guns to Gardens is a program that accepts guns from donors and turns those guns into garden tools—swords into plowshares so to speak. I'm intrigued by this program and looking forward to learning more. Everyone is welcome to attend all or any part of the Presbytery meeting, so come join us. I always learn so much from what other churches are doing and you would too.

Karyl Lyne

CELEBRATION OF LIFE: PATRICK CASSEDAY RUCKER

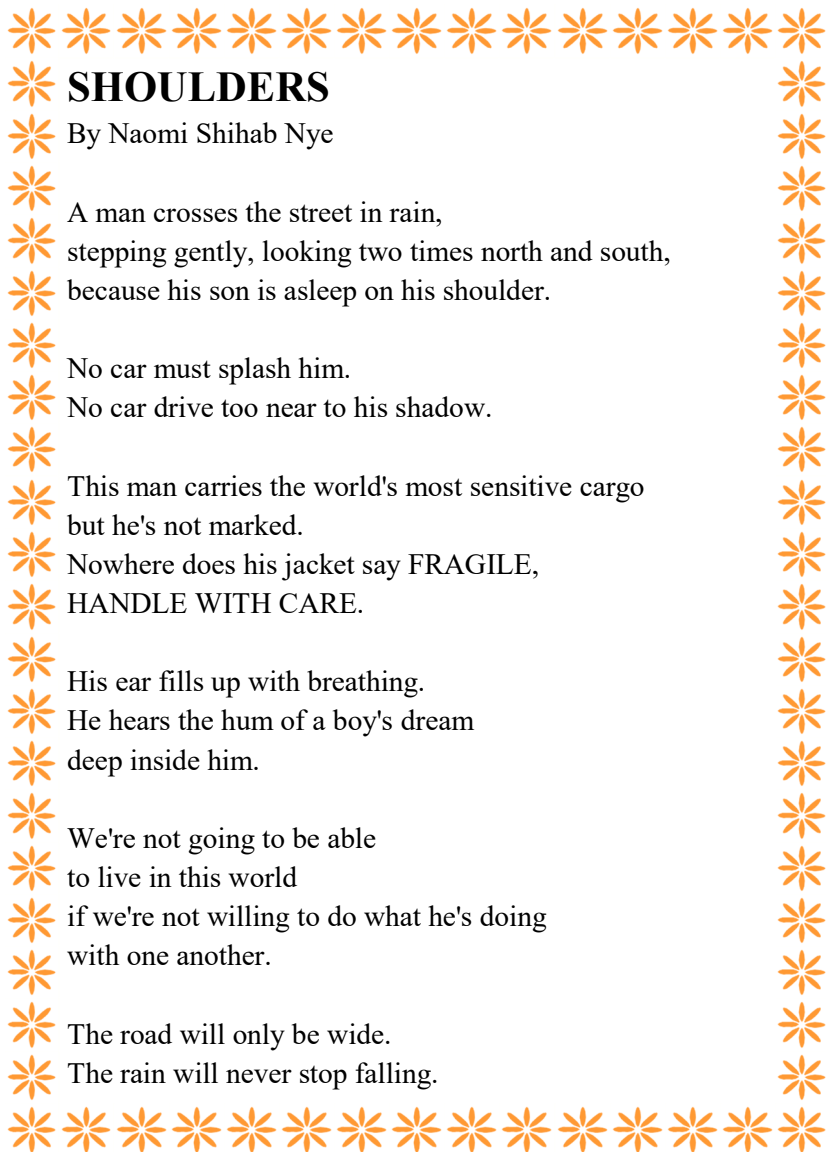
There will be a Celebration of Life service for Patrick Casseday Rucker on Saturday, July 9, at 11 a.m., at First United Presbyterian Church, 1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas, N.M.

Following this service, there will be the Beer Party Patrick made me promise to give at our home – 89 Roadrunner Road, Las Vegas, N.M. Lunch will be served with plenty of time to share stories about Patrick, reminisce, laugh, and enjoy each other's company. Please let me know if you will be able to come so that there is plenty of food to eat and beverages to consume.

If your visit requires an overnight stay, there are numerous motels in Las Vegas—Best Western, Budget Inn, Comfort Inn, Days Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Plaza Hotel, Super 8, Travel Lodge. Please be aware that we have many fire fighters and emergency response personnel in Las Vegas right now. The hope is that they will not still be here in July, but that is an unknown right now.

It is so kind of you to remember Patrick and consider joining in this celebration of his life.

Karyl Lyne



PRAYER FOR A CHURCH BASED ON GRACE

The Sunday Morning class closed its study of Grace on June 19, with this prayer adapted from the book: Dear Lord, when the world despises a notorious sinner, teach Your Church to love her. When the world cuts off aid to the poor and the suffering, teach Your church to offer food and healing. When the world oppresses, teach Your church to raise up the oppressed. When the world shames a social outcast, teach Your church to proclaim Your reconciling love. When the world seeks profit and self-fulfillment, teach Your church to seek sacrifice and service. When the world demands retribution, teach Your church to dispense grace. When the world splinters into factions, teach Your church to join together in unity. When the world destroys its enemies, teach Your church to love them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

EAST WING TASK FORCE RENOVATION PLAN

The East Wing doesn't need much to make it a viable area for multiple uses. The Task Force will consider any suggestions that will make the space inviting to members and non-members who are looking for a gathering spot for meetings and other uses.

Steps have already been taken to determine best use of the space as is, including a designated nursery.

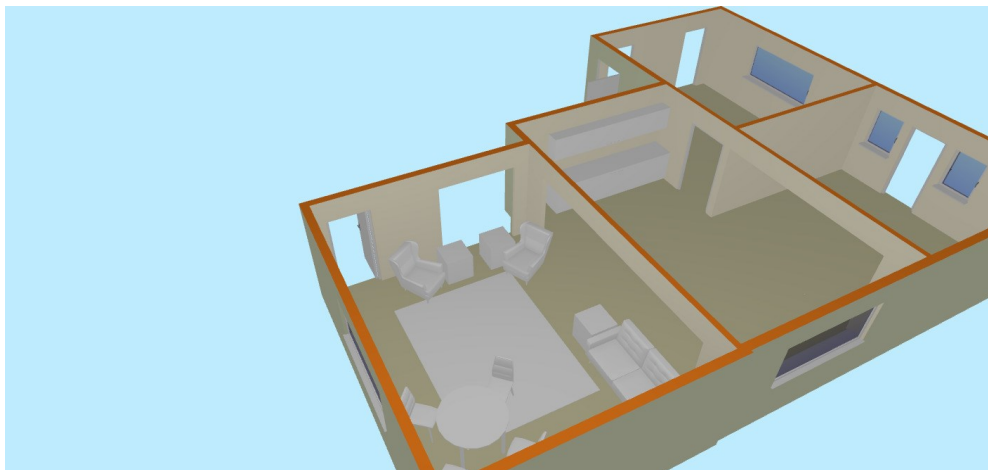
Mary Schipper, chair of the task force said, "... as a church anticipating families will join us or be here for activities like memorial services or funerals or other events, we want to make sure they feel welcome." The left rear room (see drawing) has been set aside for this purpose.

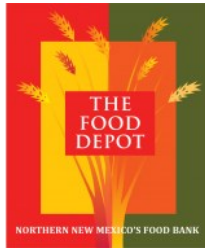
The front third of the room would serve as a lounge, with the middle area serving as a meeting space with tables and chairs. At the rear right a coffee/tea space with the refrigerator and two small cafe tables and chairs (8) would be set up.

The task force has some funding, \$1,500, from a Mustard Seed grant. Donations of new or gently used items will be needed to furnish and equip the East Wing for use. Projected date of availability of the space is after Labor Day.

Needs List:

- 2 or 3 wooden TV trays
- 2 or 3 8' x 12' area rugs for use in lounge area, nursery, tea/coffee area. Durability important
- Rocking Chair for nursery
- Crib or porta-crib for nursery
- Sturdy, washable toys
- Upholstered chairs for lounge area (2 or 3)
- 2 Small café tables for beverage area
- 8 suitable café-type chairs
- Microwave for beverage area
- Coffee and tea equipment





NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

On average, 170 families benefit from the partnership between the Food Depot out of Santa Fe and the various Las Vegas agencies who have teamed up with this important resource. Currently, the Food Depot is working with First United Presbyterian Church. The distribution events are coordinated by Karyl Lyne.

“Our biggest recent distribution happened because of a pop-up pantry requested by Gov. Michelle Lujan-Grisham,” Karyl said. “This one-time event occurred May 25 in response to the growing need for food by people displaced by fires in the area. More than 270 households were served that day.”

FUPC has been working with Food Depot since January, coordinating volunteers for the monthly Mobile Food Pantry. Distribution in future will be at Rodriguez Park at the west end of Grant Street, the second Friday of the month. “We are doing it there in cooperation with the city because that parking lot is much bigger. The space accommodates many cars lining up for food, plus the semi-trucks the Food Depot brings, and the cars of the volunteers.”

The Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled to be at Rodriguez Park on the second Friday of each month from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Contact Karyl Lyne for more information at 505-718-6475. Volunteers are needed to load the food from the pallets into the cars.

Volunteers should plan to be at Rodriguez Park at 9 a.m. on the second Friday of the month for training and work assignments.

Photo Credit: Judy Long



A SILVER THREADS MESSAGE

The Silver Threads quilting group in Las Vegas is working on completing almost 100 quilt tops that were donated from a group in Roswell for people who lost their homes in the fires. We are working at Rio Gallinas School this summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Donations of material for the backings (minimum of 2 yards, cotton fabric) or batting for the center of the quilts is needed. Funds donations will be used to buy batting. Donations of material or monetary donations can be dropped off at the church office.

If you have extra time this summer and would like to help, you are welcome to join us. Volunteers are needed to press the tops, sew binding or to piece backings together, and tie the quilts. It's a big job. Contact Emilia Rivera at 505 699-8765 or Gloria Mejillas 505 660-4130 for more information.



Lost Sutras of Jesus: How Early Christian Texts Came to China

Note: There will be no Sunday Bible-based class Sunday, July 3

Starting July 10, the Class will start a new series of discussions led by John Arnold. This series will be based on the book *The Lost Sutras of Jesus: Unblocking the Ancient Wisdom of the Xian Monks* by Ray Riegert and Thomas Moore.

John is a former Church of Christ minister who has devoted much of his life to comparative religious studies. The recent discovery of Persian Christianity's interaction with Buddhism and Taoism in China has been a subject of special interest to him. He is an active Taoist and practices and teaches Taoist movement arts like Tai Chi in our community.

From the Publisher: *The Lost Sutras of Jesus* is a fascinating historical journey and spiritual quest into the heart of Jesus' teachings and the essence of Eastern religion. Around A.D. 640, Christian missionaries entered China from the west and had their message translated with a Taoist and Buddhist overlay. These sutras were eventually sealed in a cave, where they remained hidden for 900 years. *The Lost Sutras of Jesus* combines the amazing story of the writing, disappearance, and rediscovery of the sutras with an exploration of their message.

From a reader: "This is a necessary reference tool for anyone interested in the effect of culture on religion. If the Church of the East, largely Nestorian originally, had continued to survive, it would have had Taoist, Confucist, and Buddhist trappings. Already by 800, these effects were clear to anyone in the material found so far (a small remnant of the original). Quite a different church than that of Rome."

Determination of class status (Zoom, hybrid, or Church only) is pending. Classes are from 9 to 10 a.m.

Sessions and Reading Assignments:

June 10 – Introduction to Early Christianity in the Middle East and Far East – John Arnold

July 17 – Part I: Wisdom from a Cave – pp. 1-42*

July 24 – Part II: The Jesus Sutras, introduction and the first four chapters – pp. 43- 70*

July 30 – The Secret Sayings of Ye Su – readings provided

Aug. 7 – Part II, fifth through eighth chapters – pp. 71-95*

Aug. 14 – final four chapters – pp. 96-119*

Aug. 21 – Part III: The Soul of the Scrolls – pp. 120-136*

*Readings from *The Lost Sutras of Jesus*

The book is available from Alibris new for as little as \$2.99 and used for as little as \$.99 plus shipping; used from AbeBooks for as little as \$2.50 to \$6.50 plus shipping; and new in paperback from Amazon for \$9.84 plus shipping or used for under \$6.00 including shipping. Paper Trail may be able to order a copy. Richard Lindeborg can have a copy delivered directly to you for no shipping charge.



EQUAL EXCHANGE AND JUST COFFEE RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

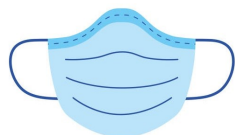
If you want to do one act that will have an impact on Social Justice, it could be as simple as purchasing coffee or other food items from [Just Coffee](#) (Café Justo), or from [Equal Exchange](#). Many in our church family are familiar with these entities and will be happy to know that Community Life will be restarting the program of selling items on site in early September. The in-house shop will be open twice a month on the first and third Sundays following services.

Nina Marquez Johns, coordinator, is seeking input from former and new buyers. What would you like to have available for purchase? Coffee, tea, chocolate, peanut butter? See the websites for available items. To learn more about the entities and their importance, check out their websites. Each seeks to influence in positive ways the viability and income of small growers while producing quality products in environmentally sound ways.

From the [Equal Exchange website](#): *Equal Exchange's mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate, through our success, the contribution of worker co-operatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic, and sustainable world.*

From the [Café Justo website](#): *Café Justo's mission is to deliver the highest quality, organic, environmentally conscious, fresh roasted coffee to our customers at a price that is fair and just. We work to create a bond between the members of the coffee growing community in Salvador Urbina and our customers throughout the world.*

The Just Coffee and Equal Exchange products can be ordered in bulk and made available for sale locally. When letting Nina (ninamjohns@gmail.com) know what you are interested in, include size preferred. Check the websites for more information.



MASKS IN CHURCH

Masks are now optional in the church building. If you feel more comfortable continuing to wear a mask, please do. Should circumstances change, we will update this policy.

HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE

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



CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT UPDATE

Although Katie's sabbatical and the congregational time of renewal has been postponed until next year, the planning continues. D.R. and Katie are working now to determine the exact dates for next year's sabbatical time and then members of the Renewal Grant Task Force will be back at work, scheduling dates with our professional and local coaches.

HOPE: Housing Opportunities Programs for Elders

Longtime volunteer coordinator, Rosie Lopez, said things are going better for HOPE (Housing Opportunities Programs for Elders), following reorganization with a new slate of officers and new energy. Officers include Jim Croto as president, Tito Chavez as vice president, MaryBeth Song as secretary, and Jude Romero as treasurer. At large members are Bonnie Trujillo, Katherine Espinoza, and K-Kids, Kiwanis youth under the sponsorship of Aja Currey from Rio Gallinas School.

As recipient of a Las Vegas Community Foundation Bob Mishler Impact Award, Rosie donated the \$1,000 award to HOPE and additionally raised more than \$500 with a birthday go-fund-me campaign.

Moustapha, who designed the website years ago, has reactivated the website and will have it up and running in about a week.

HOPE membership is at 45 with 12 currently active. The organization is a designated 501c3 providing transportation services for medical related needs of elders (55+) of Northeastern New Mexico to support and enhance quality of life and allow seniors to remain in their own homes longer. Collaborating with United World College, 4-H and Las Vegas youth, HOPE provides household assistance to enable elders to function independently. Refer anyone needing HOPE services to 505-398-0350.

HOPE volunteers take about one member a week to Santa Fe and sometimes one a week locally to medical appointments. UWC youth cleaned yards this spring, Mennonite youth group did some extra work at a home in Camp Luna, and we're hopeful of starting activities again at the senior centers in San Miguel County, which include San Miguel, Las Vegas, and Pecos centers.

The HOPE office at the Senior Center in Las Vegas will be re-opened and operate two half days a week. Rosie said help in achieving the organization's objectives is needed and appreciated, especially drivers.

Drivers are paid \$20 a trip to Santa Fe, which may increase to \$30 because of gas prices and depending upon funding.

Rosie plans to ask Southwest Capital Bank for another grant for travel. Many HOPE drivers do not take the gas stipend and many clients donate \$10 or \$20 when they get a trip to Santa Fe, which helps the fund replenish itself.

On behalf of HOPE, Rosie thanks FUPC members who donate in any way to the viability of the organization.

Future plans for HOPE include a volunteer appreciation day July 22 at Travelers Cafe beginning at 7:30. "We plan to give baskets to the volunteers to honor them. If you have baskets to donate or things to put in them, we take gift certificates or new items," Rosie said. The goal is to put together 25 baskets.

On Aug. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., HOPE will have its annual planning meeting. All are welcome to attend and bring ideas.

In September, a fundraising dance and a silent auction is planned. More information soon.

Cleaning Up

A small but mighty group gathered on June 25 to clean in and around the church in preparation for the Presbytery meeting to be held in Las Vegas in mid-July. Thanks to all who assisted in this effort. Here are a few intrepid sweepers, painters, and tidiers.



At left, Carol and D.R. sweeping up. At right, Crystal taking charge of soil.



At left, Karyl Lyne makes a big decision: Where do we put this? Below, Corky applies a coat of paint.



Peter and Juli clean up debris and tidy the flower beds



CONNECT WITH PASTOR KATIE!

Coffee with Katie continues in-person at Charlie's, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. Please join Katie for coffee or tea and perhaps some breakfast! A couple of times, Charlie's has unexpectedly been closed on a Tuesday morning. Should you plan to join Katie and find Charlie's closed, please look for her at Travelers.



ONLINE GIVING REMINDER

If you are using our online giving process, please check the "end date" of your automatic payments. And thanks for giving so generously this year. Contact the church office if you have any questions.



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



TO JOIN ANY FUPC EVENTS VIA ZOOM

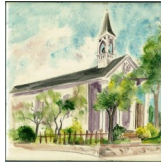
You are welcome to worship in the sanctuary, but if you would like to continue worshipping online, here are the instructions to access Zoom:

- The easiest way to join worship or other FUPC public events is simply to go to our website (lvpresbyterian.org) and click on the "Join Us on Zoom" link.
- You can also open your web browser and go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081>. If you haven't been on Zoom before, you'll see instructions for downloading the Zoom app and allowing your camera (if you have one) and microphone to be used by Zoom, and then the meeting will open.
- If you are new to Zoom, we recommend going to the link above a few minutes before the event so that you can get the Zoom app set up ahead of time.
- If you don't have a computer but want **to join by phone, call 312-626-7699** and enter the meeting ID number (573-920-0081) when prompted. Please note this is a Chicago number, so if your phone plan does not have unlimited calls, you may incur long-distance charges.
- For Zoom committee meetings and other non-public meetings, you'll receive a link from your committee chair.

First United Presbyterian Church

JULY 2022

1000 Douglas Avenue
PO Box 37
Las Vegas NM 87701
505-425-7763



Website: www.lvpresbyterian.org

Facebook: Las Vegas First United Presbyterian (NM)

Email: fupc.nm@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Bible Based Study via Zoom

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship in person and via Zoom

Fellowship Hour following the worship service on Zoom



Samaritan House Food Donations

JULY 2022

Soup (any kind)

Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



9th	Sharon VanderMeer	27th	Carol Litherland
21st	Bryan Johnson	30th	Randy Campbell
26th	Murl Baker	31st	Maxine (Gordy) Thatcher