



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

JUNE 2022

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

What a time of despair we are living in. We are seeing a resurgence of COVID (a few of our church family members tested positive while evacuated at Glorieta Camp, as has our daughter and daughter-in-law) and the devastation of fire—not only the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire, but others as well. Another school shooting has left 19 elementary-aged students and two teachers dead, as well as 17 injured. This is the 27<sup>th</sup> school shooting so far this year. The chart on the Gun Violence Archive website, which shows the number of mass shootings (defined as killing or injuring four or more people other than the shooter) so far this year, is nine pages long. War continues in Ukraine and in places all over the world people experience gross injustice and oppression. As someone mentioned to me recently, it is hard not to feel hopeless.

How do we respond? First, with prayer. But we also take note of the message of a meme that is making the rounds on social media, which shows the words “thoughts and prayers” marked out and the words “policy and change” written in. We pray, yes. But we also act. I offer this prayer as a starting point:

God of Love and Peace, we find ourselves in despair and hopelessness as we look at our world.  
There is so much to lament; devastation is all around us.  
Remind us, we pray, that your steadfast love supports us and your vision of justice guides us.  
Forgive us our desire for individual gain and comfort; remind us that we, though many, are one.  
Mend our broken hearts with compassion and courage.  
Give us compassion to reach out in love to those who are in need;  
Attune our eyes and ears to see and hear those needs.  
Make our hands generous with the giving of our time and attention, our abilities and resources.  
Give us courage to address the gross wrongs in our society and in our world.  
Attune our eyes and ears also to see and hear those wrongs.  
Make our voices loud  
with demands to end senseless violence through gun control;  
with demands for adequate and universal physical, behavioral, and mental healthcare;  
with demands for equality in a still racist society;  
with demands for policies built on justice and love rather than greed and selfish ambition.  
These are the same demands, O God, that you have modeled for us:  
Put down your swords and turn them into plowshares;  
Heal those whose bodies are broken, whose behavior hurts others, whose minds harbor demons;  
Accept those who are marginalized: the poor, the broken, the other;  
Do justice, love kindness, and offer hospitality to all.  
God of Love and Peace, give us hope and,  
through that hope, the strength to build something new and beautiful.  
We pray in the name of Christ, who shows us how to love one another. Amen.

With thanks for all of you,  
Pastor Katie

## A WORD ABOUT THE FIRE

The fire is still very much on our minds. We will continue to reach out as we can to lend a hand to those who are in need. Please continue to pray for and offer support to those who have experienced loss, those who are still evacuated from their homes, and those who don't know what the future will bring for them. Let's reach out as we can, knowing that a visit, a shared meal, or an opportunity to talk about this experience can be very meaningful for those who have been impacted by the fire.

Of course, we can offer donations to the Donations Center and monetary gifts to help fire victims as well. You'll find the latest information available to us below. May all those who are experiencing the effects of this fire know God's presence at this time. –Pastor Katie

**Call the state fire resource hotline: 1-800-432-2080**

**Or:** <https://www.nmdhsem.org/2022-wildfires/>

To donate money: Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation: <https://www.lvnmcf.org/donate-now/>

**The following is the list of nonprofits that have been granted funds for the Hermit's Peak Wildfire Relief Fund by LVNM Community Foundation:**

Visiones Collaborativas: housing and meals for displaced seniors. Contact: Anita LaRan, all\_laran@yahoo.com, 505-205-8581

Mora County Water Alliance: generators to protect water supply. Contact: Arthur Romero, artromero65@yahoo.com, 575-643-6043

Help New Mexico, Inc.: emergency food and hotel stipends. Contact: Roger Gonzales, roger.gonzales@cpic.org, 575-447-3846

Safe Space NM Fire Relief Fund: hotel shelter with safe space rates. Contact: Vanessa Garcia, vnssgar@msn.com, 505-550-5046

The Food Depot: food, water and personal care items. Contact: Kira Howard, khoward@thefooddepot.org, 505-471-1633x140

MainStreet de Las Vegas: distributes needed funds in San Miguel County via mini-grants. Contact: Michael Peranteau, michaelperanteau@aol.com, 505-257-8770

Animal Welfare Coalition of NE New Mexico: offsite ER evacuation and intake of AWC shelter animals. Contact: Marshall Poole, mpoole@usa.net, 505-670-9838

Mora Valley Community Health Services, Inc.: onsite and offsite services for personal care and adult day care. Contact: Julian Barela & Kedric Valdez, jbarela@mvchs.org or kvaldez@mvch.org, 575-387-3312

Luna Community College Foundation: assists students, faculty and staff with fire recovery costs. Contact: Phillip Martinez, phillipmartinez@frankenconstruction.com, 505-429-0027

Heart of David Worship Center: gas cards & Walmart gift cards for those with fire losses. Contact: Patricia Smith, patannmom@yahoo.com, 505-670-5223

Mora Creative Council/Mora MainStreet: Mora Head Start families impacted by the wildfires via the Head Start Distribution Center. Contact: RuthAnn Roybal-Griego, ourmoranm@gmail.com, 575-387-2308

Other nonprofits will be listed as grants are awarded. Nonprofits may download an application at <https://www.lvnmcf.com/hermits-peak-wildfire-relief-fund-2/>

## RELAX AND RECHARGE



Mark your calendars. This series of Relax and Recharge! two-hour events kicks off on Thursday, June 2, 6-8 p.m. with a Bingo Party. The church is opening Perea Hall to those who may be looking for a place to enjoy down time playing games, visiting, and generally unplugging from the stress we've all been under. A schedule of activities will be posted on the website soon and advertised through social media.

Volunteers are needed to help coordinate and help with events. If you are interested in being a Relax and Recharge! volunteer, contact a member of the Task Force: Katie Palmer, Karyl Lyne, Linda Solyntjes, Pam Abreu, Renee Soderlund, Pat Halverson, Lorenzo Martinez, Sharon Vander Meer, Murl Baker.

## CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT UPDATE



To quote the poet Robert Burns, "The best-laid plans of mice and men [sic] often go awry."

As you know, the Renewal Grant Task Force spent months planning for this summer's congregational renewal time—including wonderful plans for worship—but because of the huge impact the fires are having on our community, the Session and Pastor Katie have decided to postpone the time of congregational renewal and Katie's sabbatical until 2023.

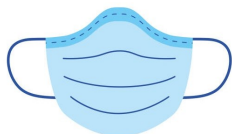
All of our professional coaches have already agreed to be with us next year, as have our lay leaders. We don't have specific dates yet, but the renewal time will be roughly the same time of the year as planned for this year, so mark your calendars!

## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS



Thanks to all who have donated books to be put in the Little Free Library. We are the most used and popular of the 7 LFLs in Las Vegas, and the books disappear fast. Some are added and returned by patrons, but most I put in from our back stock of donations. Guess what? We need more donations! All kinds except textbooks and dated travel books. Everything seems to be of interest and shared. Please leave at church office 9-12 Monday -Thursday. Or leave on my front porch, 769 Diane Ave., any time. So appreciated and a real service to the community. Thanks for looking at your libraries and seeing what you can donate.

Judy Long



## 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.



## WORSHIP TIDBITS

We return to our hybrid worship format on Sunday, June 5, so please join us in the sanctuary or online for worship!

June 5 is also Pentecost Sunday! From the word for “50,” the Christian Pentecost is celebrated on the 50<sup>th</sup> day of Easter; it commemorates the day when tongues of flame rested on the disciples and filled them with the Holy Spirit:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:1-4)

The disciples who experienced that gift of the Spirit, though, would have known the feast of Pentecost as Shavuot, which was a time of thanksgiving during which the wheat harvest was celebrated and later came to be a time to remember the law given to Moses.

I hope to see you either in the sanctuary or online this Pentecost and invite you to wear colors of flame to represent those tongues of fire that brought the Holy Spirit to the early church.

### BACK TO HYBRID WORSHIP

Starting on June 5, we will be back to hybrid worship so you can join us in person in the sanctuary or on Zoom.

#### Litany in Time of Wildfires

Holy God, in the wake of fires that devour and consume,  
*Refresh us with the water of life.*

In the barren places of ash and dust,  
*Restore us with the water of life.*

When all we can see is devastation and despair,  
*Renew us with the water of life.*

In Christ, we are washed clean.  
*We are refreshed.*

In Christ, we drink from the wellspring of hope.  
*We are restored.*

In Christ, we dance in the fountain of life.  
*We are renewed.*

*Thanks be to God. Amen.*

Provided by the Deacons thanks to Pat Halverson





## CLERK'S CORNER

It's with a very heavy heart that I write today. We grieve with the people of Uvalde, Texas, where lives were lost yesterday in yet another act of gun violence in a school. A war of death, destruction and atrocity grinds on in Ukraine. Fires in New Mexico continue to blaze. I have heard so many people express disorientation, imbalance, inability to focus, loss of direction, anxiety, depression, frustration, and anger. How do we move forward? What can we do? One person said, "If I take on a specific task and work to complete that, I can function, but when that's done, I'm back to the hurt, the worry, the lostness."

We are fortunate to live in a very giving community where people do care for each other in so many large and small ways. People do reach out to help. We must take heart in that and nurture that kindness and generosity. We also must do a bit of self-care patience: processing time, grieving time, healing time, quiet time. Each of us does these things differently, with different rhythms and timelines. Each of us needs the time and space to do this. With God's help, we will come through this. With God's help, we will find ways to move forward. With God's help, we will find hope in the future.

Karyl Lyne  
Clerk of Session

## DIGITAL CENTRAL



Hello, my name is Sharon and in the coming weeks and months, I'm going to be nosy, ask questions, write posts, create content, and manage the website. This has been handled for the most part by D.R. with some help from others. The website is a huge chunk of the image pie and has been developed and maintained by volunteers.

Session decided some weeks ago to expand the digital outreach of our church through additional social media platforms and through other means. Which is where I come in.

Where do you come in? Communication is key to sharing what FUPC is doing. We have an opportunity to talk about improvements, plans, activities, worship, Sunday morning classes, music and so much more.

I'm in learning mode with the website, but there are other opportunities for sharing who we are and what we're up to. Use your smart phone to take photos and videos of activities, whether they're capturing a special moment during worship, the meal team cooking up a storm, B&G painting a wall, or any other activity that is a glimpse of who we are as a faith community working together. Once you've captured that image email it to me at [fsvandermeer@gmail.com](mailto:fsvandermeer@gmail.com) or upload it to your favorite social media platform. Either way, please let me know when you post something so I can track its activity and share the link with the FUPC community and other networks.

I will contact committee chairs and task force coordinators directly over the coming weeks to begin building a content calendar. The goal is to post something new and interesting at least three times a week. That means being intentional about putting Digital Central in your communications loop by emailing [fsvandermeer@gmail.com](mailto:fsvandermeer@gmail.com) with news, photos, and planned activities.

If you have questions, call or text me at 505-617-0839.

Sharon Vander Meer  
Digital Central





## Class Winds Up Grace, Moves On To the Lost Sutras of Jesus

After taking Memorial Day Sunday off, the Sunday Morning Bible-Based Class for Adults and Youth will wind up its discussion of the book *What's So Amazing About Grace* by Philip Yancey during June. The sessions, led by Karyl Lyne and Richard Lindeborg, will run through June 19 from 9 to 10 a.m.

A reader commented, "Grace is perhaps THE most powerful force in the world today. It has the power to not only change us but to change the course of world history as it did with Christ and has done many times down through the ages. Grace short-circuits the cancer of hate, it frees us from the slavery of resentment, it cuts us loose from the violent cycle of revenge, and it opens the door to God himself. What other attitude in action delivers so much?"

Reading Assignments:

June 5. Ch 14-15, pp. 177-210

June 12. Ch. 16-18, pp. 213-251

June 19. Ch 19-20, pp. 253-282

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

For now, classes are on Zoom. They may be hybrid, by mid-June, with sessions in in the audio-visual classroom upstairs in the church and on Zoom.

There may be a one-time pop-up class on June 26. Information to come.

## Coming: The Lost Sutras of Jesus

John Arnold will be preaching on Sunday, June 26, on early Christianity in the East, how it developed independently of the church in Rome, and how some of these Christian communities continue to the present.

John's message will serve as a transition to the next discussion series in the Bible-Based Class for Adults and Youth, starting July 10, after the class's Independence Day break.

The 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.

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.



### SANTA FE FOOD DEPOT FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Two food distributions specifically for fire evacuees were held in May. The last one on May 25 served 272 households.

The next food distribution will be on Friday, June 10 from 8:30-11 a.m. at Rodriguez Park. Volunteers helping with registration need to be on site at 8:30 for training. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Karyl Lyne at 505-718-6475.

### 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.

## CONNECT WITH PASTOR KATIE!

Coffee with Katie continues at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays at Charlie's. Please join Katie for coffee or tea and perhaps a pastry or breakfast!



## 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.

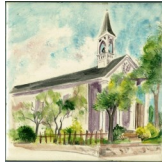


## TO JOIN ANY FUPC EVENTS VIA ZOOM

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.

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505-425-7763



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

Facebook: Las Vegas First United Presbyterian (NM)

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

**Sunday Schedule**

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

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

Fellowship Hour following the worship service on Zoom



**Samaritan House Food Donations**

**JUNE 2022**

Flour and Sugar

Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



10th	Rosalie Lopez	22nd	Judi Ruprecht
16th	Rudy Laumbach	25th	Sean Croto
18th	Bonnie Trujillo	29th	Ken Litherland
21st	Kent Reid		