



Sharing the Love of Christ

First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

PO Box 37

1000 Douglas Avenue

Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

NOVEMBER 2022

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

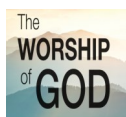
As I sat at Charlie's one recent Wednesday morning waiting to see if others would join me, I thought about how soon November will be here. (A side note: city crews were putting up Christmas decorations as I sat there!) I love fall, so I was still reveling in the feel of the crisp air and bright sunshine I experienced as I walked from my car into the restaurant. I got to thinking about November as a special time for remembering to be thankful and started making a mental list. Soon enough, I was thankful for the company of some folks who joined me for breakfast and good conversation, but once I was back in the office, I decided to share with you some of those things for which I am grateful:

- for Northern New Mexico food
- for the cup of English Breakfast or Good Earth spice tea that starts my day
- for a home that offers warmth and refuge, a wonderful husband, and two cats whose purrs I enjoy
- for the laughter I hear in the church building whenever the Buildings and Grounds crew is at work
- for the way our Deacons and deacons-in-heart show their concern for every member of our church family
- for the dedication of so many church family members to doing the work of the church in our community and beyond, even after long days at work or tending the needs of family
- for friends near and far
- for children and grandchildren (mine and others') who bring joy
- for water and filling reservoirs

It's a short list; I could go on and on. I encourage you to take some time—maybe daily or weekly—during the month of November to make a gratitude list. Noticing at least three or four things we are thankful for each day can go a long way toward counteracting the things that don't go so smoothly during the course of our days!

Speaking of thanksgiving and of the gift of water, please keep your eyes and ears open for information about an interfaith/community Blessing of the Water and Thanksgiving gathering. A group of interfaith leaders is working on these events, currently scheduled for Saturday, November 19. We will gather at 10 a.m. to bless the water that flows into our reservoirs and treatment systems and that flows through our community (location still being determined), then caravan to Perea Hall for a brief interfaith Thanksgiving service and potluck lunch. Following lunch, those who might want to share a song, a poem, or other offering will be welcome to do so. Please plan to attend this event, which offers us the opportunity to visit with folks from the community and other faith traditions.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie



WORSHIP TIDBITS

We continue the theme “Offering Ourselves to God” through November 20, which is also Christ the King Sunday. A worship tidbit: Christ the King Sunday is a relatively new designation in the liturgical calendar. Established by then-Pope Pius XI for the Roman Catholic church in 1925, it reminds Christians that God, not secular governments, rules over all. I don’t know exactly when various Protestant churches adopted the practice of recognizing this Sunday in the liturgical calendar, but it now ends our liturgical year, celebrating the reign of Christ before the liturgical year begins anew in Advent, with the anticipation of Jesus’ birth. Another tidbit: Christ the King Sunday, and therefore the first Sunday of Advent, fall on the earliest dates possible this year—November 20 and 27, respectively. This also means—yep—that Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year.

As we enter into Advent and wait for the birth of Jesus, look for stories from both our Old and New Testaments around the theme “Born for Such a Time as This.” We’ll explore how various characters in the Bible and in our own experience (including each of us!) is born to be who God created us to be in a particular time and place. Stay posted for more information about the season of Advent!

ALL FAITH PRAYER CIRCLE STARTING NOVEMBER 3RD

Please join us for a brief midday prayer circle, each Thursday at 12:15-12:45,
in the Sanctuary. (Enter at the west Ramp entrance.)

Starting Nov. 3, Reverend Pat Halverson and Deacon Mary Schipper will facilitate an opportunity for all interested to stop by the church for a simple and supportive time to share our prayer concerns and offer a spontaneous prayer.

Feeling a need for midweek support and fellowship, during these challenging times of life, Pat and I would like to extend an invitation to you to take a few minutes weekly to pause and share what is in our hearts, and on our minds.

WHAT: PRAYER CIRCLE
WHEN: EVERY THURSDAY: 12:15 - 12:45
WHERE: FUPC CHANCEL (SANCTUARY STAGE)
PLEASE USE WEST RAMP ENTRANCE

ALL WELCOME!



CLERK'S CORNER

Clerk's Corner/Presbytery Commissioner Report

I am happy to report the Presbytery of Santa Fe is alive and well and doing the work of the Lord in Northern New Mexico. As the FUPC Presbytery Commissioner, I attended the Fall Presbytery Meeting last Saturday, Oct. 15, at the beautiful Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. You'll remember FUPC hosted the summer Presbytery Meeting in July. It's always nice to see friends and meet new folks at those meetings, and to hear about what churches are doing. Two new YAVs were commissioned during the meeting. Again, you'll remember that we support a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program in Albuquerque led by Luke Rembold. People apply for these appointments following college and spend a year in New Mexico serving in non-profit charitable agencies as they explore and discern how God is calling them into careers of service for the future.

We were reminded by the Commission on Ministry that the base salary and housing for pastors is \$44,675. The Commission for Camino de Vida in the South Valley of Albuquerque, which serves a large immigrant population and has been served for years by Rev. Guermo Yela with no increase in salary or sabbatical, recommended a 12 percent salary increase as well as a three-month sabbatical, both of which were enthusiastically supported. It was also announced that there will be a \$2 per person increase from \$35 to \$37 in the per capita each church pays to the Presbytery each year to support its work. Salaries for Presbytery staff will also increase 8-10 percent.

Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo, from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, reported that we support mission work in 80 countries and have 78 mission co-workers around the world. They are supported through the four national offerings each year. Through the month of October, we're giving to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. If you haven't given to that yet, I encourage you to do so. Finally, I want to share with you the work of an amazing partnership of four churches in northern New Mexico to welcome an Afghan Evacuee Family to Santa Fe.

Mission Networking: Four Church Support to Afghan Evacuee Family in Santa Fe

When the Afghan government collapsed and the Taliban seized power in August 2021, the US airlifted thousands of vulnerable Afghans and their families to the United States. Many of those families came to Santa Fe, including the Ibrahimis, a family of eight, including six children. The Ibrahimis family was especially vulnerable because the dad was in the Afghan military and volunteered to serve with American forces as they fought against the Taliban. The family did not speak English when they arrived in the U.S., so their support needs have been great.

Four area churches have come together to serve as a co-sponsor team for the family:

- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe
- First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe
- White Rock Presbyterian Church
- White Rock United Methodist Church

The congregations of these churches together raised funds to help resettle the family, and church volunteers are helping the Ibrahimis integrate into our community. The volunteers have given many hours of their time to:

- Move the family into a rental apartment and furnish it completely
 - Tutor the parents and children in English and all school subjects
 - Serve as liaisons to school administrators and teachers to address unmet needs
 - Find and purchase a vehicle for the family and help the father get a driver's license
 - Help find a good job in a safe environment for the father of the family
 - Coordinate medical and dental appointments for the family
 - Provide transportation to numerous cultural enrichment events and appointments in Santa Fe and Albuquerque
 - Mentor the family on financial issues
 - Assist with immigration requirements
 - Become friends with the family

These are just some of the many support actions our church volunteers have performed over the last nine months. No single congregation could have supplied enough funds or volunteers to help a family of this size with such need. Instead, God has provided a unique opportunity for our church partnership to help the Ibrahimis settle into a new country, one in which the five Ibrahim girls can attend school for the first time and choose any profession they wish as they grow into adults. Praise God for that and for the many hands across four churches who have welcomed this family.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA LIAISON POSITION UPDATE

Sharon Vander Meer has done a fabulous job with this new position. You may have noticed more pictures on Facebook and emails and newsletter, as well as updates on what we have been doing. Due to personal circumstances Sharon has stepped down as of Nov. 1. We thank you Sharon for getting this job off to such a great start. Crystal, our current office manager, was looking for more hours of work and we agreed this was a great fit, so she will incorporate the social media liaison tasks into her job description of office manager and add 5 hours a week to her schedule. Those 5 hours can be off site since they are mostly computer work. The job is basically to keep the face of our church in the eye of the community (ours as well as the broader community). This can be through FaceBook, other social media, the newspaper and our website for example. Please help Crystal with this new part of her job by getting her information and pictures of church events.



ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Angel Tree Project: An opportunity to provide a gift for the children of incarcerated adults. More information, page 5.

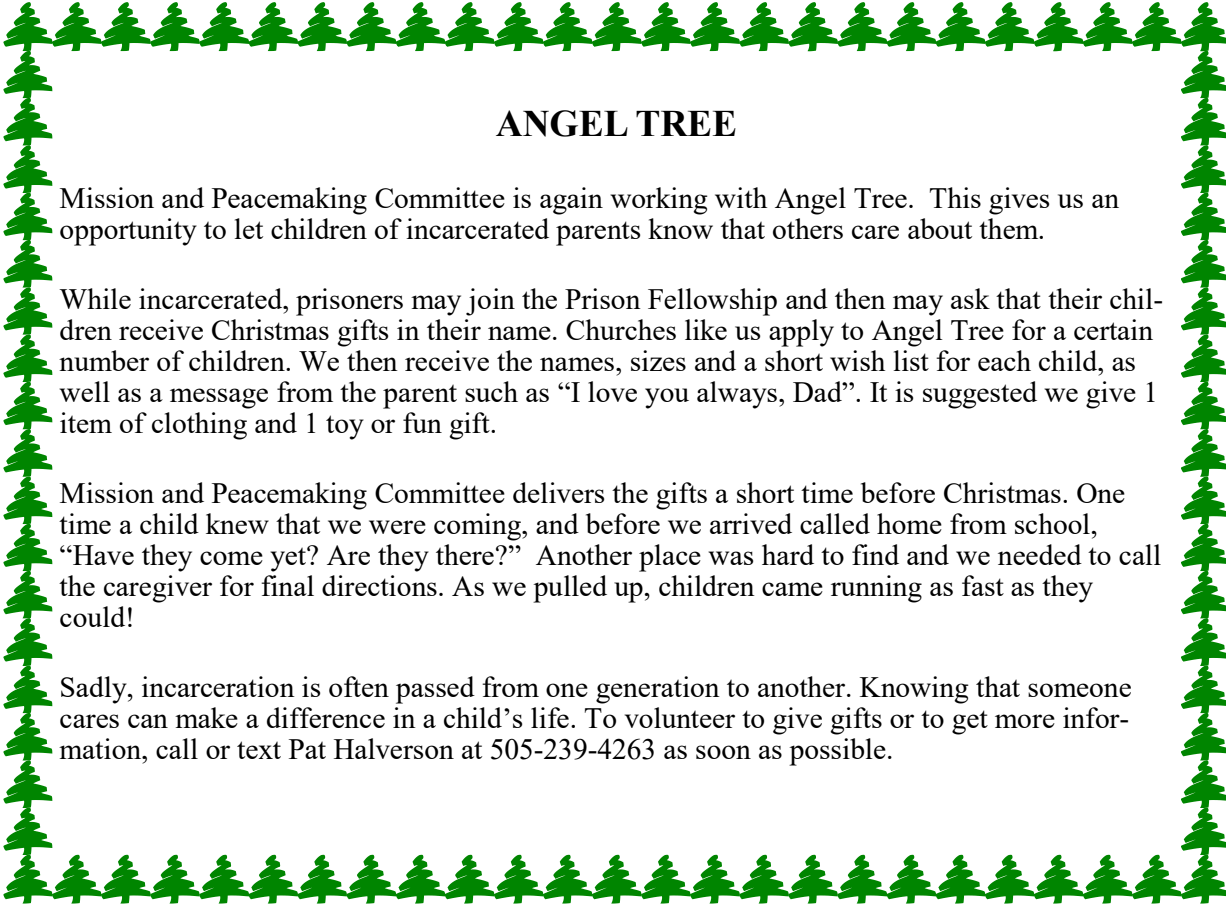
Reverse Advent Calendar: An opportunity to set aside one item each day of Advent for donation to Samaritan House; Reverse Advent Calendar boxes should be delivered to Samaritan House on December 20 or 21. More information, page 5.

Advent Study for Adults and Youth, Sundays from 9:15 – 10:15 in hybrid format. The class will discuss the “O Antiphons”. More information, page 7.

Advent book club discussion of *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan. More information, page 6.

Daily devotions, *Attending to Advent: poetry, prose and prayer* from *Presbyterian Outlook* magazine. Sign up to have them sent to you via email or let us know if you’d like to receive hard copies, which will be available on Sunday mornings. More information, page 6.

Advent Choir with Jordan Jones. More information, page 6.



ANGEL TREE

Mission and Peacemaking Committee is again working with Angel Tree. This gives us an opportunity to let children of incarcerated parents know that others care about them.

While incarcerated, prisoners may join the Prison Fellowship and then may ask that their children receive Christmas gifts in their name. Churches like us apply to Angel Tree for a certain number of children. We then receive the names, sizes and a short wish list for each child, as well as a message from the parent such as “I love you always, Dad”. It is suggested we give 1 item of clothing and 1 toy or fun gift.

Mission and Peacemaking Committee delivers the gifts a short time before Christmas. One time a child knew that we were coming, and before we arrived called home from school, “Have they come yet? Are they there?” Another place was hard to find and we needed to call the caregiver for final directions. As we pulled up, children came running as fast as they could!

Sadly, incarceration is often passed from one generation to another. Knowing that someone cares can make a difference in a child’s life. To volunteer to give gifts or to get more information, call or text Pat Halverson at 505-239-4263 as soon as possible.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

You see them all over the stores and in the catalogs at this time of year—Advent Calendars, from the simple to the extravagant. The little ones that store a bit of chocolate behind each “door” during the days of December leading up to Christmas and the big ones with elaborate Victorian England themes or a teacup for each of the days, behind which is a different flavored tea bag. Advent Calendars are great fun, especially the ones that reward us with chocolate! But how might we use the Advent Calendar concept to show generosity to others? A **REVERSE** Advent Calendar! Rather than a calendar of the month of December, this one looks like a nice box—perhaps covered in some pretty wrapping paper if you’d like to leave it displayed in your home. Each day of Advent, you put into the box a gift from a list provided (we’re still working on this year’s list!)—perhaps a can of fruit or a tube of toothpaste. At the end of the season, you will have a nice, full box of needed items to gift to Samaritan House for use by their clients. Plan now to participate, and watch for the list, which will be coming soon!

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

During the upcoming Advent season, FUPC will have daily Advent devotions available for your personal use. These devotions, *Attending to Advent: poetry, prose and prayer*, come to us through *Presbyterian Outlook* magazine and are written by *Outlook* editor Teri McDowell Ott and contributing editors Kathryn Lester-Bacon and Arlin Buyert.

About these devotions (from the *Presbyterian Outlook* website):

The weeks leading up to Christmas can be hectic and full. The opportunity to pause and attend to Advent can get lost amid preparations for the big holiday, vacation plans or end-of-year work. This daily devotional, which includes submissions from poets you have read in the pages of the *Outlook*, invites readers to pause and reflect on narratives in the Christmas story. Each week, the devotions address a different theme: Week 1: Mary; Week 2: Joseph; Week 3: Herod; Week 4: the Christ child; Christmas Eve: Emmanuel. Daily readings will take [you] deeper into the scriptural story of the birth of Christ and explore contemporary subjects like parenting, power, war and violence, vulnerability, innocence and the many ways God's incarnation can be experienced.

ADVENT BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

Join Pastor Katie for a discussion of the novel *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan. We'll meet in The Mustard Seed Gathering Place (East Wing) to discuss this novel set in small-town Ireland in the mid-1980's. Date and time to be determined; please let Katie know if you have a preference!

Short-listed for the 2022 Booker Prize, the story takes place in the weeks before Christmas. According to a review by author Lily King, the novel is "[a] hypnotic and electrifying Irish tale that transcends country, transcends time." The Amazon book review describes the book this way: "During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man, faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church."

The book is available through Amazon for \$14.37 plus shipping, (\$9.00 for the Kindle version), and through Alibris new from \$7.82 plus shipping.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CHOIR



Hello Church!

My name is Jordan Jones, and I will be directing the Advent and Christmas choir this season! If you would like to join us, we will be meeting on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m., starting Nov. 16, in Perea Hall. I am so excited to be sharing this time of year with you to help spread the message of love, hope, and cheer through much needed song. You need not be of musical background to come and enjoy singing with kindred spirits.

Things to know:

We will not be meeting the week of Thanksgiving on Nov. 23. Our first Sunday to sing will be Nov. 27. Call time is at 8:45 a.m. for Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. This call time allows those who want to attend the Advent class discussion at 9:15 the ability to do so.

Keep on the lookout for updates. Looking forward to singing with all of you!

Jordan Jones



Sunday Morning Class: Gospels and Antiphons

The Sunday morning class for adults and youth will be discussing the four Gospels in November and the millennium-old use of the “O Antiphons” during Advent.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

The Gospels discussions will be based on the book *Matthew Mark Luke & John: Side by Side Parallel Gospels in Harmony*, edited by David A. Reed. The translation used in this book is the World English Bible, a public domain translation.

The book presents all the Gospels in chronological order, side by side, so readers can pick out their favorite episodes from one Gospel and see which other Gospels include a version of the same story. Alternatively, readers can see which episodes appear in only one Gospel. There is a lot of white space here; the four gospels in a pew bible would be a third shorter.

The editor served for a decade as a contributing editor of Dr. Walter Martin’s Christian Research Journal and has taught at Spurgeon’s annual School of Theology at London’s Metropolitan Tabernacle. He has authored 20 books on Bible topics and is pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The book is available new in paperback from Amazon for \$7.95 and used for as little as \$4.71, both prices plus shipping. It is more expensive and scarcer from AbeBooks and Alibris. Richard Lindeborg can order a copy for you from Amazon and have it delivered to your home with free shipping.

The classes are from 9 to 10 a.m. in hybrid mode: Via Zoom on the same link as the worship service and in person in the church’s teleconference center on the second floor of the 1000 Douglas Ave. building. Enter through the East Wing door and follow the signs through Perea Hall to the stairs.

Reading Assignments are:

Nov. 6, pp 4-89

Nov. 13, pp. 90-175

Nov. 20, pp. 176-260

The “O antiphons” at two per week

Starting Nov. 27, the class will take up the traditional discussion of Advent texts. Readings for each class are 4-5 pages long and will be e-mailed to participants or handed out the week before Sunday class. Let Richard Lindeborg know if you want the texts by email or in hard copy. (RALindeborg@cs.com)

The handouts are from the Thoughtful Christian’s module “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel: An Adult Advent Study on the O Antiphons,” by Barry Ensign-George, Associate for Theology in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and author of *Six Themes in the Bible Everyone Should Know*.

Publishers write: “Among the most beautiful prayers ever composed, the “O Antiphons” have for twelve centuries voiced the Church’s longing for Christ’s Coming at Christmas. These antiphons refer to Christ under seven great titles: Wisdom (*Sapientia*), Lord Most High (*Adonai*), Root of Jesse (*Radix Jesse*), Key of David (*Clavis David*), Dayspring (*Oriens*), King of Nations (*Rex Gentium*), and God With Us (*Emmanuel*).

(continued on Page 8)

“Sometimes called the ‘Greater Antiphons,’ these verses are recited at Vespers, one each evening, between Dec. 17 and Dec. 23. They give voice to the Israelites’ longing for the Messiah, as well as our own longing for Jesus to come—both at Christmas and at the Second Coming.”

Discussion of each antiphon will begin with a short choral presentation of the text.

Reading assignments are:

- Nov. 27: O Wisdom
- Dec. 4: O Lord Most High and O Root of Jesse
- Dec 11: O Key of David and O Radiant Dawn
- Dec 18: O Ruler of the Nations and O Emmanuel

Timing for the Advent class sessions will be announced. Richard plans to serve breakfast before class for those attending in person.

THANKS PABLO



Pablo has gotten a full-time job at LUNA and resigned from the custodian job at the church. He has been a faithful employee and we thank him for his hard work. He’s still a member of church so we will see him, just not doing the cleaning, sweeping, and table moving.

During these next few weeks while we search for a new custodian, we are asking for volunteers to step up to take on some basic cleaning tasks to keep our church looking its best. These tasks include emptying the trash cans, cleaning bathrooms, sweeping floors and vacuuming carpets. If you’d like to volunteer, please contact Crystal in the church office to sign up for a task. Hopefully, we’ll have enough volunteers so these tasks can be split up equitably.

A WORD ABOUT FIRE RECOVERY

With the help of FEMA, a joint San Miguel/Mora Counties Long-Term Recovery Group has been formed. The group has established a board of directors, which is at work putting together committees. These committees will address needs assessment, unmet needs, behavioral health, resources, emotional/spiritual care, public relations/communications, and construction. Should you be interested in serving on one of these committees, let Pastor Katie or Carol Linder know so that they can connect you to the group. Pastor Katie will serve on the emotional/spiritual care committee, which is being chaired by Mother Jill Cline of St. Paul’s Peace.

The Old Town Mission Community Center Has a New Look!

After a major renovation by the Buildings and Grounds committee (B&G) and redecorating by the Joint Operating Team (JOT), the Old Town Mission Community Center is ready for use!

B&G has refinished the main floor and installed new flooring on the stage and ramp in the Assembly Room, installed new flooring and built new shelving and computer workstation space in the Middle Room, and repainted throughout. We also have new cabinets in the kitchenette, plus a new roof over it that extends to create a beautiful new porch over the west side entrance.

JOT has installed accent lighting in the Assembly Room, and obtained new furniture that is easier to rearrange as different groups use the Middle Room. We have relocated the art supplies to the new shelving in the east cabinets. The whole place has a much brighter, cleaner look.

JOT is in the process of getting a new sign for the side of the porch that will be easily visible from Socorro Street. We hope this will make it easier for newcomers to find the OTMCC. We have also increased our presence in Google Maps so you can search for Old Town Mission Community Center and find us and our web page. If you need directions, tell your map app to find 301 Socorro and it should get you to the parking lot, which we share with the building that officially has that address.

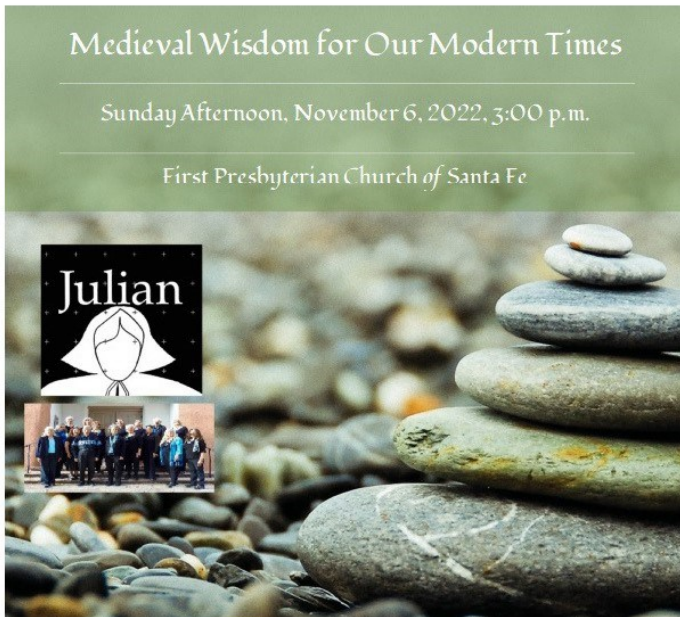
The OTMCC partners with the United World College to support The SPOT Youth Team, led by Pat Leahan, which involves youth from UWC and local schools in community activities. Rio Gallinas school rents our facility for their students as they work the Grow Dome across the street. We have several other groups that rent the space on a regular basis, and also rent the space for parties and social events. We recently showed the place to a couple who are planning their wedding.

You may not know that the OTMCC hosts a Desertgate internet antenna in our steeple. In exchange for hosting that antenna, we receive superfast internet in the building, recently measured at 90 Mbps!

The OTMCC is available to the public for rent at a rate of \$20/hour for either room or \$40/hour for the entire building. Kitchenette use is included in the rate.



The Middle Room




An afternoon of Julian of Norwich's words through a play and musical performance, reception following.

<p>Location First Presbyterian Church 208 Grant Avenue Santa Fe, NM 87501</p> <p>Event fee Free Will Offering taken at the door</p> <p>Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe</p>	<p>Featuring JULIAN a one-woman play performed by Linda C. Loving and Santa Fe Women's Ensemble directed by Linda Raney</p> <p>For more information email: jeannie.bowman17@gmail.com</p>
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DID YOU KNOW?

We have an online church directory that lists names, family members, phone numbers and addresses for members and friends of FUPC. Crystal updates it frequently, so if you have any change to your contact information, let her know so that our directory stays up to date. You can view it online on your own computer or download the app on your phone. The phone app is very easy to use and allows you to make calls and send texts directly from the app. Contact Crystal in the church office if you need help with getting access to the directory.

CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT UPDATE



We all know that, as they say, life happens. Since our postponement of Pastor Katie's sabbatical and the time of congregational renewal because of the fires, some Renewal Grant Task Force members have had to step away from their involvement in the task force. But never fear—just as a few people had to step away, others have stepped up. What a blessing this church family is! We are still working to establish the “renewed” task force membership and invite you to let Pastor Katie know if you'd like to be involved—there's plenty of work to do! At the moment of this writing, we are pleased to have Kathy Franken, Karyl Lyne, Mary Schipper, Renee Soderlund, Linda Solyntjes, Van Swan, Crystal Western Ford and Pastor Katie committed to work on the task force. We are working to reschedule both our professional and local coaches for our various activities as a first step of next year's renewal timeline, which will begin sometime in May with a workshop by professional tracker John Stokes.

COFFEE WITH KATIE – now on Wednesdays!

Plan to join Pastor Katie for good conversation, coffee or tea, and maybe a pastry or some breakfast on Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m., at Charlie's. We meet to get to know one another better, talk about the topics of the day, and enjoy bacon and eggs or pancakes or a cinnamon roll!



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 and encouraged 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

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



Samaritan House Food Donations
NOVEMBER 2022
Pasta and Sauce
Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



- 6th Maridell Monnheimer
- 7th Christina Litherland
- 18th Nicky Litherland
Theresa M. DeHerrera
- 27th Katie Palmer
- 30th Karen Topping