



Sharing the Love of Christ

First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

PO Box 37

1000 Douglas Avenue

Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

DECEMBER 2022

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

We enter into this Advent season with much on our minds. The world is restless. We continue to know about so much suffering. People are hungry and thirsty. Disease wracks many bodies. Countries are at war. Our national headlines proclaim deep division. Locally, COVID cases surge even as we remember those who are displaced after fire and flood. As we think on these things, we can cry with the psalmist, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget [us] forever?" (Psalm 13)

It is in precisely such times as these that we are called to wait in the darkness and to hope. Our hope will bring us, as it does each year, to the celebration of Jesus' birth. But hope is a misunderstood thing. We often mistakenly construe hope as a kind of longing that, when fulfilled, will erase all of the wrongs we "hope" will be righted. We sometimes think the same of Jesus' birth—that the one who comes to save will take care of everything all on his own. But hope—like waiting again for the birth of Jesus—is not sedentary. I recently ran across this definition of hope on the Narrative Lectionary Facebook page, and thought it worth sharing during this season of hope. May we all hope fiercely this season and always, because real hope is what will change the world. And so, this definition from Rebecca Solnit in her book *Hope in the Dark*:

Hope is not a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch, feeling lucky. It is an axe you break down doors with in an emergency. Hope should shove you out the door, because it will take everything you have to steer the future away from endless war, from the annihilation of the earth's treasures and the grinding down of the poor and marginal...To hope is to give yourself to the future - and that commitment to the future is what makes the present inhabitable.

This Advent season, may we have a voracious appetite for hope, giving ourselves to the future so that it might be one of peace and justice.

With thanks for all of you,

Pastor Katie

BLUE CHRISTMAS

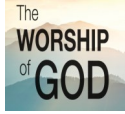
You are invited to join in a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 11, at 5 p.m.

The *Presbyterian Outlook* describes a Blue Christmas service as one that

...names and holds space for the sadness that accompanies the holidays. Heightened by the advertising of our consumerist culture, there is a definite Christmas ideal that includes neatly iced gingerbread houses, smiling children, and an excessive amount of neatly wrapped packages. These standards and the church's sometimes solitary focus on joy can make the holidays an isolating time for anyone who can't muster happiness ... A blue Christmas service is an invitation for anyone who wants to come and set their burden down, for a community to hold pain collectively.

After the losses our community has suffered this year, many will no doubt find this Christmas to be difficult. Those who lost homes in fire and flood no doubt also lost Christmas decorations, whose absence they might miss acutely this season. They undoubtedly will feel their losses especially during the holidays. Those who have lost loved ones often find the holidays to be challenging. Those who carry other burdens can also struggle during this time when "merry" seems to be a key phrase.

If you, or someone you know, would like a place in which to release those burdens, please plan to attend.



WORSHIP TIDBITS

Our Advent theme, “Born for Such a Time as This,” provides an opportunity to see how, in all times and places, God uses God’s people to address the issues of the time. Rev. Pat Halverson began looking at this theme on the first Sunday of Advent (November 27) with readings from the prophet Habakkuk. Readings for the rest of Advent are:

December 4 – Esther 4:1-17

December 11 – Isaiah 42:1-9

December 18 - Matthew 1:18-25

In each of these readings, we’ll discover how people are “born for such a time” as the one in which they find themselves. Certainly we can look beyond the stories of Biblical characters to find that this is the case. For instance, the first part of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA)—the Book of Confessions—includes confessions written from many times and places to address the pressing issues of those times. The writers of these words were “born for such a time”—from the writers who sought change during the Reformation, to those who stood against what was happening in 1930’s Germany, to the American Civil Rights era, and the period of apartheid in South Africa.

Others we know as prophets and heroes (for instance, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King, Jr.; what others can you think of?) were born into particular times and rose to battle injustices in their times, too.

As we explore the particular times our Scriptures reveal and the times in which we live, our Advent candles will illuminate particular ways in which we are called to consider the events of our time as we await the light of the world. Particularly, we will watch in hope (Advent 1), speak for justice and peace (Advent 2), shine with faithful joy (Advent 3), and follow in God’s steadfast love (Advent 4).



HAPPY HANUKKAH!

On Sunday, December 18, the first evening of Hanukkah, the Las Vegas Jewish Community will hold a rededication of the Montefiore Synagogue, and we would like to give them a Hanukkah gift to help them with necessary renovations. The Session has voted to contribute toward this gift; we also invite individuals from the congregation to contribute as well. The Jewish Community here has been very generous toward us, helping us purchase the land on which our Douglas Street facility sits as well as with funds to renovate the Old Town Mission Community Center. Now we can return their generosity! If you’d like to contribute, please send a check made out to FUPC with “Montefiore Synagogue” in the memo line or contribute online on the FUPC website. This way, we can pool all the donations toward a single gift!



CLERK'S CORNER

The Session of First United Presbyterian Church is moving forward with a number of exciting initiatives! At the November Session meeting it was decided that the former East Wing-Pre-School-Nursery; which has been transformed into an inviting and comfortable space with couches, soft chairs, small tables and art on the walls; will be called The Gathering Place. If you haven't been there recently, go and see how lovely and welcoming The Gathering Place is. Many thanks to Mary Schipper, who made this happen. Judy Long announced that a wooden sign to be placed at the sidewalk to the East Wing/Gathering Place door, will direct people up that side walk to the Office and The Gathering Place, or to the ramp/west entrance to Perea Hall. Bravo! The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 6, 2023, so put it on your calendar and be there. As you may know, FUPC Buildings have been increasingly requested as space for concerts, parties, showers, rehearsals, counseling and meetings. SOOOOO, our Time, Talent and Treasure (TTT) Committee has created a Short Term Facility Rental Agreement, approved by Session, and required for outside groups to use our buildings. It covers insurance issues, rental fees, stipulations for use and signatures. WELL DONE, TTT! Session also approved donating \$1000 from our bequests to fund medical debt relief for New Mexicans. As per Romans 13:8 "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another...", the Presbytery of Santa Fe has joined with Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation (PHF), a 501(c)(3) organization, to purchase uncollectible medical debt owed to PHF at the rate of \$0.07 on the dollar and PHF will write off the remaining \$0.93. The Presbytery's goal is to raise \$30K by 12/31/22. If you would like to contribute to this effort, contact The Presbytery of Santa Fe @ santafepresbytery.org. TTT also reported that stewardship letters to members are ready to send. The stewardship theme for 2023 is "Nourish Our Roots to Grow God's Kingdom". As you consider your giving to the church in 2023, reflect on the many Seeds, Roots and Branches of FUPC, and the amazing work this church does in Las Vegas and beyond! We are truly blessed!

Karyl Lyne
Clerk of Session

Nourishing our Roots to Grow God's Kingdom

Annual Budget Meeting

December 4, 2023

- Please join us for the annual budget meeting on Sunday, December 4 in Perea Hall following the Northern New Mexico Potluck and before the Hanging of the Greens.
- Help us discern how best to use your contributions.
- The Session will approve the 2023 budget at their December meeting

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.
--Jeremiah 17:7-8



Celebrating 150 years in Our Community



ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Our November newsletter was full of different events and opportunities, so if you feel like you've lost track of everything happening at FUPC in the next few weeks, see the list below so you don't miss out:

DATES/TIMES/LOCATION

Now through Dec.15
Every Sunday, 8:15 a.m., Perea Hall
November 27 through December 20
November 27 through December 18
December 3, 6:00 p.m., Perea Hall
December 4, after worship, Perea Hall

December 10, 11:30 a.m., The Gathering Place
December 18
Dec. 11, Dec. 24
December 11, 12:30-3:30 p.m., OTMCC
December 11 at 5 p.m.
December 18, 5:30 p.m., Montefiore Synagogue
December 24 at 5:30 p.m.
December 25

EVENTS

Angel Tree Project
Jump Start Breakfast
Reverse Advent Calendar
Advent Study for Adults and Youth
Movie Night "The Polar Express"
Northern NM potluck, Budget Meeting and Hanging of the Greens
Book Club Discussion of *Small Things Like These*
Bell Choir (during worship)
Vocal Choir (during worship)
Bake Sale and Open House
Blue Christmas Service
Re-dedication ceremony
Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Worship and Carol Sing

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.

The devotions are available in hard copy in the narthex and have also been emailed out to everyone on the church email list.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

D.R. and I just sent Advent Calendars to our grandchildren. They are the kind that house a small piece of chocolate behind each of the numbered doors. Of course, one of my gripes with commercial Advent calendars is that they don't actually begin at Advent, but on December 1. Nevertheless, the kids think they are great fun—especially since they ensure a sweet treat each day of December leading up to Christmas!

The Reverse Advent Calendar is different. It does begin on the first day of Advent (which was November 27). It necessarily ends a bit early, for us, because Samaritan House will not be open all the way through the week before Christmas. This “calendar” 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—perhaps a jar of nuts or a tube of toothpaste. At the end of the season, you will have a nice, full box of items to gift to Samaritan House for use by their clients. It's not too late to participate—you can catch up with whatever you've missed from the list, which you'll find below. Please plan to take your completed box to Samaritan House, 501 7th Street, December 20, 21, or 22 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

November

- 27 – pair of warm socks
- 28 – toothbrush
- 29 – toothpaste
- 30 – dental floss

December

- 1 – body/hand wipes
- 2 – gum
- 3 – lip balm (e.g., Chapstick)
- 4 – package of trail mix or nuts
- 5 – shampoo
- 6 – conditioner
- 7 – comb/brush
- 8 – wash cloth and hand towel
- 9 – nail clippers
- 10 – body wash or bar of soap
- 11 – deck of cards
- 12 – hand sanitizer
- 13 – deodorant
- 14 – lotion
- 15 – package of mints
- 16 – hand warmers
- 17 – pen and small spiral notebook
- 18 – candy treat
- 19 – Special gift: for example, gloves, a scarf, a hat, a game, a blanket, a water bottle, or a book
- 20 – a personal note of encouragement

ADVENT BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

Join Pastor Katie for a series of book discussions over the next few months! Books are chosen for the Advent/Christmas seasons and, early in the new year, for the Lent/Easter seasons.

The first discussion focuses on the novel *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan. We'll meet in The Gathering Place (East Wing) at 11:30 on Saturday, December 10 to discuss this novel set in small-town Ireland in the mid-1980's. Please bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy while we talk.

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. It is a short read (around 120 pages), so there's still time to read it for discussion on the 10th! Thanks to Susan and Richard Lindeborg for the recommendation!

The second discussion will center on *The Liberating Birth of Jesus: A Birth Story Able to Reverse Our Planet's Perils* by Lee Van Ham. Recommended by Ruth Hazelton, this book looks at Jesus' birth stories in the gospels of Matthew and Luke with an eye to demonstrate that these stories show:

. . . a worldview that is creation-centered. . . In this worldview, sharing, interdependence, cosmology, and souls that resonate with the sacred Presence give powerful, life-sustaining experiences. With the ecological catastrophes underway, stories in the creation-centered worldview stir our greater capacities as humans. [from the book's cover commentary]

The author directs a U.S. – Mexico nonprofit, Jubilee Economics, focused on OneEarth living. He is a retired Presbyterian pastor.

The book is available on Amazon for \$11.95 (\$2.99 for Kindle edition); from Alibris for \$9.63. Tentative date for this discussion is January 14 or 15.

As we move into the Lenten season in late February, Pastor Katie will schedule one or two more book discussions. Dates will be determined by the birth of Katie's new granddaughter, who will be arriving sometime in February! **Sue Monk Kidd's novel *The Book of Longings* will guide one discussion.** This novel imagines the story of Jesus' wife during the time of his ministry. (Many scholars have long thought that Jesus was probably married; it would be quite unusual for a Jewish man in his time not to be.) The story is that of Ana, the wife's character, but weaves Jesus' story in and out of the events in Ana's life.

The Associated Press review of the novel says that Kidd's

. . . painstaking research and artful crafting of setting and character ensure that *The Book of Longings* is not just an extraordinary novel, but one with lasting power. . . . [Her] brilliance shines through on so many levels, but not the least in her masterful, reverential approach to capturing Jesus of Nazareth as a fully human young man.

Kidd's book is available through Amazon for \$13.99 (\$11.99 for Kindle edition); from Alibris for \$6.59.

Dates and other book title TBD.



This Year's Advent Study: "O Antiphons"

This year's Advent study started on November 27, with group discussion of traditional Advent texts. Readings for each class are 4-5 pages long and will be e-mailed to participants or handed out at the week before Sunday classes. 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).

"Sometimes called the "Greater Antiphons," these verses are recited at Vespers, one each evening, between December 17 and December 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:

- 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"

The class is at 9:15 Sunday Mornings. In-person sessions are in the first classroom with Zoom access on the same link as the Sunday worship service. Jump Start Breakfast before the class will start at 8:15 in Perea hall.

First Sunday Class of 2023: Ten Words of Love

The Sunday Morning Bible-Based Class for Adults and Youth will start the new year with discussion of the book *Words of Love: A Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble.

From the book cover: The Ten Commandments are more than a list of ancient rules. Beneath the surface, they offer a profound invitation to healing and transformation. In this unique Bible study, readers will discover that the Ten Commandments are words from the heart of God, given to reconcile creation to Creator and God's people to one another. In *Words of Love*, Eugenia Anne Gamble dives into each of the Ten Commandments and examines their application for modern-day Christians, going beyond the letter of the law to a spiritual truth pointing us toward wholeness and well-being.

Eugenia Anne Gamble is a retired Presbyterian Church (USA) pastor who has preached throughout the United States and is a writer who loves to help the Bible come alive in people's lives. She writes a regular column for *Horizons Magazine* and won the Associated Church Press Award of Excellence for her Bible study called: *Glimpses of Home: Biblical Images of the Realm of God*. Gamble was the writer in residence for the Presbytery of Shepards and Lapsley in Alabama. She was director of spiritual development at First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, CA, and served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in downtown Birmingham, Alabama.

The book is in paperback, \$17.59 new online, with a few copies used for \$12 and up, all plus shipping.

E-books are \$12.49 and up. Richard Lindeborg can have a copy delivered to you for 17.59 including shipping.

The first two reading assignments are:

January 7: Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-24

January 14: Chapter 2, pp 25-44

Jump Start Breakfast Returns

Jump Start Breakfast has returned, at 8:15 a.m. Sunday Mornings in Perea Hall. This light meal is a good start for choir members, whose Sunday a.m. warm-up runs from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m., for Advent Study Class members, whose class runs from 9:15 to 10:00 or so, and for others who just want to sit and chat before worship.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Just a reminder, we are starting the Getting to Know You series as a website exclusive. Articles about Corky Halverson, Karyl Lyne, and D.R. Palmer are already up. Go to our website at <https://lvpresbyterian.org>, click on About Us in the menu, and scroll down to Getting to Know You. Click on the link you want to read and the article will open.



Everyone is asked to respond to the same questions, see below. If the question doesn't apply to your life, skip it, and move on. You may submit your responses any time, by email, to Sharon Vander Meer at fsvandermeer@gmail.com. She will format and post the item to the website. You will be asked to provide a photo to run with the article. If you have questions, call Sharon at 505 617-0839.

- Name
- Education/career path
- Where did you grow up?
- Family?
- What are you passionate about and how is that reflected in your life?
- If you had a motto, what would it be?
- Church activities
- Community activities
- Add anything you would like folks to know about you.

These GTKY articles have been popular ways to know one another beyond a casual hello. We look forward to sharing your story.



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CALLING ALL BAKERS!

The Joint Operating Team of the Old Town Mission Community Center is holding an open house and bake sale on Sunday December 11. It will be a fun time to get reacquainted with the place after the beautiful renovation work, and we will raise some money for our youth programs as well.

But we need your help! Can you donate some cookies, cakes, pies or other baked goods? Irene Encinias from JOT will pick up your donations. Just call her at 505-429-0377. For health department reasons, we cannot take anything that needs to be kept hot or cold, so no pumpkin rolls with cream cheese, please! Thanks in advance for your help. Call D.R. Palmer 303-775-7259 with any questions.

Bake Sale & Open House
Join Us
@ OTMCC
301 Socorro
Dec 11, 2022
12:30 - 3:30pm
Come in & see beautiful renovation. And take home some baked goodies.
All proceeds benefit the SPOT



NEED SPACE? WE HAVE WHAT YOU NEED!

Whether you are interested in using our space for a public or private event, we have many options for you. The Session recently approved a new short term facility rental agreement for 1000 Douglas Avenue expanding our ability to rent our facilities for use by our church family and the wider community. Several groups are using our facilities to serve those affected by the Calf Canyon Hermit Peak fire.

1000 Douglas Avenue Options:

The Sanctuary for services or performances: \$75/event with a capacity of ~100.

Perea Hall for meetings, parties, and other events: \$50/event with a capacity of ~ 100. The kitchen space is included for serving.

The Gathering Space: \$50/event (capacity is ~40) Our newly named and renovated space in the east wing for meetings, parties, book clubs, craft and/or game nights, and much more

Classrooms, the nursery, and single rooms are available as needed: \$20/event with a capacity of ~8-12

The Commercial Kitchen is available to cook meals to be served within or outside of our facility at \$50/event with a capacity of ~8. Proper permitting and training is required.

Our facilities at 1000 Douglas are generally available free of charge to our church family although donations are always appreciated. Others are expected to pay for use or provide a justification for a fee waiver.

NOTE: a \$50 refundable cleaning deposit is expected from all users at the time reservations are made.

For more details and a copy of our rental agreements, please contact the Church Office for more details at fupc.nm@gmail.com or by calling 505-425-7763.

The newly renovated Old Town Mission Community Center is also available for rentals at \$20/hour and can be reserved by contacting Pat Leahan at (505) 718-6635. For more details check out the website at <https://lvpresbyterian.org/main/old-town-mission-community-center/>.

Carol Linder
Chair, TT&T

A WORD ABOUT FIRE RECOVERY

With the help of FEMA, a joint San Miguel/Mora Counties Long-Term Recovery Group has been formed. There are several committees working with the LTRG, which are addressing needs assessment, unmet needs, behavioral health, resources, emotional/spiritual care, public relations/communications, and construction. Pastor Katie is serving on the Emotional/Spiritual Care Committee, which is being chaired by Mother Jill Cline of St. Paul's Peace. This committee will be using space in our facilities to provide various kinds of care, including one-on-one counseling and community gatherings.

Join us for a

CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

*The Polar Express (2004)
with Tom Hanks
Rated G*



Saturday, December 3, 2022
From 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Perea Hall, 1000 Douglas Ave
RSVP to Carol at

505 429-2139, carollinder@msn.com

Medical Debt Forgiveness



PRESBYTERY OF SANTA FE
**MEDICAL DEBT
RELIEF FUND**

JOIN US TO EASE THE MEDICAL DEBT
CRISIS FACING MANY NEW MEXICANS

Presbytery of Santa Fe
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

PRESBYTERIAN
Healthcare Foundation

DONATE AT [SANTAFEPRESBYTERY.ORG](https://santafepresbytery.org)

Romans 13:8-Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another....

The Presbytery of Santa Fe has joined with Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation (PHF), a 501(c)(3) organization, in an exciting new partnership to ease a crisis facing many New Mexicans: crushing medical debt.

Medical debt is not usually the result of unwise decisions but of unforeseen circumstances. It can be devastating to those living on the margins, and is especially hard on the elderly, on veterans, and on the poor. New Mexico is the third poorest state in the U.S. Recent data cited by the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty shows the following:

- Nearly one in four New Mexicans have medical debt in collections.
- 59% of all negative items on consumer credit reports are due to medical debt.
- 37% of adults who have a problem with medical bills used up all of their savings to pay these bills.
- Patients with medical bill problems are three times more likely to postpone needed care.

We now have a wonderful opportunity to lighten the burden of medical debt for many New Mexicans. The partnership between the Presbytery of Santa Fe and PHF will allow donations collected by the Presbytery to purchase uncollectible medical debt owed to Presbyterian Healthcare Services (PHS) at the rate of \$0.07 on the dollar. PHS will write off the remaining \$0.93. Patients who receive debt forgiveness will be randomly selected using an algorithm based on Federal Poverty Guidelines, with a focus on those who work, sometimes at multiple jobs, but do not earn enough to live on. PHS provides 100% financial assistance to all patients with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline, so the program will aim to help those that do not qualify for total assistance. Every patient whose debt is forgiven will be notified by PHS that a financial contribution from the churches of the Presbytery of Santa Fe has covered their debt.

Our goal as a Presbytery is to raise \$30,000.00 by 12/31/2022, which will fund approximately \$420,000.00 of medical debt relief. The potential benefits and blessings to the people of New Mexico are enormous, as PHS operates nine hospitals and serves one in three New Mexicans with healthcare or coverage. Following is how your congregation can be a part of this exciting partnership.

All donations should be made through the Presbytery of Santa Fe:

- Electronic payment (debit, credit, or PayPal) can be made through the *Donate* button on the Presbytery website. Select *Use this donation for Medical Debt Relief*
- Checks can be mailed to Presbytery of Santa Fe, 217 Locust St NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87102. Indicate *Medical Debt Relief* in the memo.

Please reach out to Tiffany, 505-345-5657 or admin@santafepresbytery.org for help with donations or fundraising efforts.



EQUAL EXCHANGE

Where does the coffee and cocoa that is being sold at the church come from? Below is a profile of one Co-op that provides coffee to Equal Exchange.

Finca Triunfo Verde (FTV)

Location: Jaltenango, Chiapas, Mexico

We are an organization of small coffee producers that implement and promote organic agriculture in the buffer zone of the El Triunfo biosphere reserve, the conservation and recovery of natural resources and their biodiversity, with the aim of improving our living standards through the sale of our products always respecting the environment

Co-op Name: Partner since: 2008

Number of Producers: 507 (29% Women)

Average land under production per farmer: 3.95 Ha (~9.7 Acres)

Certifications: Organic, Fair Trade, SPP

Varieties: Paca, Bourbon, Anacafe 14, Pache, Catimor

Altitude: 1000-1700 meters above sea level

Processes: Washed

Website: <http://www.triunfoverde.org/>

Interesting Fact: One of the key activities at FTV are the youth model farms. During this year, the technical team has continued to monitor and support young farmers and offer technical assistance. This has focused on monitoring and plant development, sampling for pest identification and control, application of foliar and solid fertilizers, shade management, ground cover and training with Root Capital (Financial Education and Advisory Partner Organization) to download data from meteorological stations. This data will allow them to have accurate information to their specific regions to create climate risk and adaptation plans.

A little bit of history: Finca Triunfo Verde is a fairly young farmer organization and the founding members began their organizing work in 1999 with the goal of building an organization that focused on finding solutions to common problems faced by smallholder farmers. Farmer members live in 34 communities of 6 municipalities of the Sierra Madre de Chiapas, within what is considered the buffer zone of the El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve.

Some of these common challenges that smallholders face and FTV aims to resolve are the lack of market opportunities and a lack of access to affordable credit. FTV has given farmers access to projects and investment in productivity-related activities as well as conservation projects with a focus on preserving natural resources. Since its official founding in 2004, FTV has continued to grow and become an attractive organization to farmers in the region.

FinMujer is a legally constituted financial entity developed by FTV, which is intended to provide FTV small producers with access to timely and low-cost loans, as well as promote a financial culture that strengthens the family economies by promoting a habit of savings. At present (2021) there are 51 shareholders invested in FinMujer, including Finca Triunfo Verde. Most of this seed funding came from FTV's Fair Trade social premiums from 2018-2021.

Nina Johns

Coordinator, FUPC Equal Exchange Market



2023 Dinners for 6+2

Would you like to share a meal with a small group from our church family and invited guests? Great! It's time to sign up for Dinners for 6+2 for the coming year.

If you need a reminder on how this works, everyone participating is randomly assigned to a group and will meet for dinner (or some other meal) at the decided-upon time. The host creates the main dish and the guests bring the side dishes and dessert. Groups can meet in the home of the host, at the church, or at some other location – the host decides.

There will be three separate gathering times in 2023: January-February, April – May, and July-August.

Dinner groups will be assigned for all three sessions. It is the hosts' responsibility to arrange a place and to contact the people in their group early enough to try to find a convenient time for everyone. The host is also responsible for inviting two or more people to fill out the group of 8.

This is a fun opportunity to get to visit with each other in small groups and maybe meet some new friends.

We're excited to start this fun project again. Let us know if you want to participate and if you are willing to be a host*.

Please email Juli juli@nm360.com or call (505-429-0290). We hope you have a great time!

*note – if you agree to be a host, you don't have to host each time.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know FUPC has a website that is full of information? The website is <https://lvpresbyterian.org/main/>. On the home page, you'll find links to the weekly bulletin and worship service as well as more links by clicking on the sliding photos. Under our Latest News section, you'll find newsletters dating back to January 2020, and under Did You Know?, you'll find a short but interesting history of the church along with some timeless photos. Under What's Happening, you'll find the weekly calendar of events at the church. So check back frequently for updates and new articles.

A NOTE FROM ONE OF OUR PC(USA) MISSION PARTNERS



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.



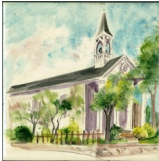
TO JOIN ANY FUPC EVENTS VIA ZOOM

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

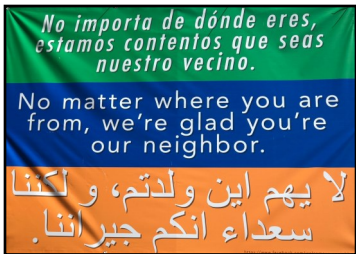
1000 Douglas Avenue
PO Box 37
Las Vegas NM 87701
505-425-7763



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
DECEMBER 2022
Canned meats (tuna, chicken, stew)
Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------|-------------------|
| 3rd | Maria Weinrich | 21st | Pam Abreu |
| | Peter Linder | 23rd | Juli Salman |
| 4th | Diego Trujillo | | Nina Johns |
| | Denice Spicer | 24th | Elizabeth Bunch |
| 5th | Gay Veit | | Richard Lindeborg |
| | William Neis | 26th | Corky Halverson |
| 8 th | Renee Buchanan | 27th | Wamoth Spicer |
| 10 th | Connie Trujillo | | |
| 14th | Gail Malley | | |
| 17th | Harper Geng | | |
| 20th | Douglas Baskett | | |