



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

MAY 2024

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

I recently spent a week of study leave writing my final report to the Clergy Renewal Program of the Lilly Endowment for the renewal grant we received last year. D.R. and I “camped out” in our new Colorado house with only an air mattress and a card table and chairs for furniture. I spent time on the report while D.R. began to contact contractors to do some work we want to have done before our move.

As I wrote the report, I reread the journals I had kept of my sabbatical experiences. As I write this last newsletter “Ponderings,” I want to share with you what I wrote in the report about my decision to retire:

. . . the discernment this [sabbatical] time granted to me was invaluable. Having time to focus on myself and what I needed at the time—rest, a creative outlet, little responsibility—helped me better discern my own needs, which get obscured when I’m focused on leading a congregation. During my time of sabbatical, I considered the timeframe of my retirement and realized that, in fact, it was time. Having postponed the sabbatical for a year because of the impact of the Calf Canyon/Hermit’s Peak fire on my community, I became aware that my remaining time with my congregation needed to be short. I recognized, for instance, that I felt better and healthier midway through the time of renewal than I had in some time. I wrote in my journal, “This sabbatical has surely taught me—even with the unexpected stresses of [my daughter-in-law’s] hospitalization, dealing with smoke from distant and not-so-distant fires, and some other minor blips along the way—that I am more active and healthier without the demands of work. It is time for retirement.” I went on to write about specific improvements in my health that I noted during sabbatical, and wrote that, upon returning to my pastoral responsibilities, I would need to focus my time on leading the congregation toward transition. Now, as I write this report, I am nearing retirement with the confidence of knowing this is the right decision for me, as difficult as it is to leave a congregation and a community I have come to love so much.

It is, indeed, so very difficult to leave this place where there is a whole family of people I love! I will miss you and remember you and hold you close as I settle into my next chapter. YOU are a remarkable family, so I know that, although transitions can be rough, you will hold each other through this upcoming transition as the Spirit guides you to the next chapter for FUPC. I leave you with one of my sabbatical poems (next page), this one about being in a rough place.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

New address for Katie and D.R.

While our Presbyterian polity requires that, once I leave, I not engage in conversation with former congregants about church-related activities and decisions, I am not prevented from sharing happenings in the lives of friends. If you’d like to drop me or D.R. a note or email, our new contact information is:

19961 East Tufts Dr.
Centennial, CO 80015

Katie: kdp1127@gmail.com
D.R.: pathfarer@gmail.com

Rough Places by Katie Palmer

Sea stars share space
on the boulder
with clams, barnacles,
ocean-tossed strands of
seaweed.

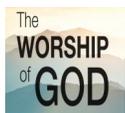
The rock is rough;
barely hospitable.

Waves roll away
causing over-exposure
even on the shady,
underside of things.

Waves roll in and over—
brief refreshment.
Low tide waits
not on the horizon
but here,
on the bristly boulder,
anticipating to be windswept.

But the stars know:
to live in the rough places,
huddle together
and hold on tight.

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WORSHIP TIDBITS

We continue in the Easter season until Pentecost, which is May 19. For the remainder of this season, we will continue “Witnessing God’s Love.”

Pentecost Sunday will be Pastor Katie’s last Sunday in the pulpit. On that day, we’ll be thinking about where we’ve seen the Spirit at work in our faith community. Where have you witnessed the Spirit at work? When has the Spirit led you to take action?

And remember: on Pentecost Sunday, wear colors of fire - red, yellow, orange!



FUPC Las Vegas seeks a Transitional Pastor beginning June 2024

First United Presbyterian Church in Las Vegas, NM seeks a full or part-time transitional pastor to lead our congregation as we seek to fill our empty pulpit following the retirement of our pastor. We are a small congregation living a big mission. We are inclusive, active, and spirit-filled. For over 150 years we have been committed to growing and sharing our faith, seeking justice for all, and building community. For a full job description and more information about our ministry, visit lvpresbyterian.org.

If you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please contact Carol Linder, Clerk of Session, at 505 429-2139 or carollinder@msn.com.



The Food Depot Pop Up Pantry Food Distribution at Rodriguez Park volunteers DR Palmer, Andy Trujillo, Crystal Western Ford, and Denice Spicer



Fellowship in Perea Hall with Don Owens, Eric Koenig, Meg York, Em Krall, Kevin Johnson, Richard Lindeborg, Carol Litherland and Rev. Randy Campbell



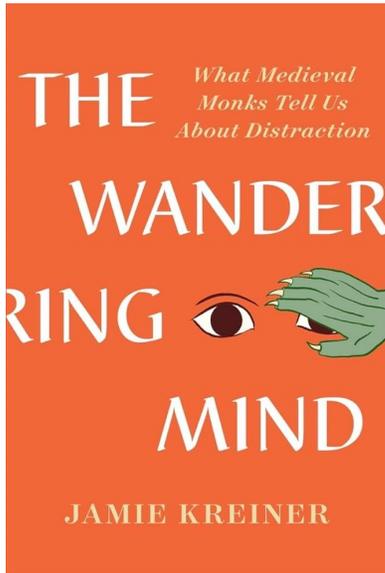
Renewal Guest Preacher – Roger Holland from Lamont School of Music, University of Denver

Fellowship brought to you by Art and Bonnie Trujillo



Worship in the sanctuary and on Zoom





The Sunday Morning Class for Adults and Youth is now discussing the book *The Wandering Mind: What Medieval Monks Tell Us About Distraction* by Jamie Kreiner, a medieval history professor at the university of Georgia.

“ The modern-day distraction epidemic has revived our interest in medieval monks (male, female, solitary, or cloistered). All kinds of statistics depict our powers of concentration as depressingly withered.”

“We inherited the monkish obsession with attention, and even inherited their moral judgments about the capacity, or failure, to concentrate. But most of us did not inherit their clarity about what is worthy of our concentration.”

The hardcover book is available new from Amazon for \$15.50 (half price) or used for \$10. Used prices at dealers such as AbeBooks and Alibris are competitive (prices plus shipping). Sessions will be at 8:45 a.m. in the Session Room or on Zoom (via the same link as for the worship service).

Reading Assignments:

May 5: Ch. 5, “Memory,” pp. 135-163

May 12: Ch. 6, “Mind,” and Conclusion, pp. 164-197

GENESIS: THE ROOTS OF JUDEO-CHRISTIAN TRADITION

Starting May 19, the Sunday Morning Bible Based Class for Adults and Youth will be discussing the book of Genesis.

Participants may choose their own translation, read the week’s material in advance and bring their Bibles to class.

Discussion leader Richard Lindeborg will introduce some concepts from Marilynne Robinson’s new book *Reading Genesis*.

Class sessions run from 8:45 to 9:45 Sunday mornings in the Session Room off Perea Hall and on Zoom on the same link as Sunday worship. Sessions will be May 19 and June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. (No session May 26, Memorial Day weekend.)

Schedule:

May 19: Chapters 1-5, Creation, Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel

June 2: Chapters 6-11, Noah; Flood and Tower of Babel

June 9: Chapters 12-19, Abram and Sarah; Sodom and Gomorrah

June 16: Chapters 20-23, Sacrifice of Isaac

June 23: Chapters 24-36, Jacob and Esau

June 30: Chapters 37-50, Joseph

MAY 2024



Retirement Celebration for
Reverend Katie Palmer

Join us for a catered reception in honor of Katie and D.R. Palmer

Sunday, May 19 4-6 pm

First United Presbyterian Church
Perea Hall
Las Vegas, New Mexico

Kindly R.S.V.P. by May 10
(505) 425-7763
fupc.nm@gmail.com

Cards may be mailed to:
First United Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 37
Las Vegas, NM 87701

There will be an opportunity to contribute to a gift for Katie & D.R. from the church community.

OLD TOWN MISSION COMMUNITY CENTER CRAFT FAIR/BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, April 20, the JOT committee held a bake sale/craft fair fundraiser to raise money for the Old Town Mission Community Center. With Irene Encinias, Kevin Johnson and Star Ford doing the set up the day before, and Irene and Kevin keeping everything running smoothly all day on Saturday, the event was a big success. The vendors reported fair to good sales, and several wanted to do more fairs like this. Bake sale and raffle tickets netted \$427 in donations, vendors' tables brought in \$425 for a grand total of \$852 in funds raised for OTMCC.

A variety of vendors sold their goods and the bake sale displayed lots of yummy goodies from orange rum cake to peanut butter cookies to brownies and apple pies. Lots of OTMCC brochures were handed out, and many people were interested in renting space in the building as well as sharing their stories of the different uses and events that have been held there over many, many years. It is a building with a lot of history and is well loved in our community.

Thanks to Kevin, Irene, D.R., Star, Crystal, Paul, Lauren, Corky, Charlotte, and Meg (hopefully didn't forget anyone) for setup, cleanup, money handling, outreach, flyers, and everything else that went into it! And thanks to all the bakers and those who donated raffle items. A special thanks to D.R. Palmer for his work co-chairing the JOT committee over the past few years. We will miss you D.R.!

Thanks to all who made this happen!

Submitted by Star Ford and Crystal Western Ford



Irene Encinias talking to a bake sale customer



Star Ford overseeing the delicious assortment of bake sale items

Vendors selling their goods



Big room at OTMCC packed with vendors and customers - a very successful day!

APRIL FOOD DEPOT FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We had a great turnout at our April food distribution. We reached a step higher to households served. We had 20 volunteers and distributed to 507 households plus we shared food with San Pascual kitchen, Kiwanis Food for Thought weekend lunches and Luna Community College food security program. Food items delivered were pantry bags, 5# bags of potatoes, red delicious apples, zucchini, ground bison meat, eggs, and frozen apricots. We have been contacted by Food Depot and within the next two months we will add Commodity food to our distribution. The Commodities are food donated by USDA and this will require monthly income and age disclosure. A team from Santa Fe will be with us for the first couple of months to get most people signed up.

We are very thankful for the use of Rodriguez baseball park. Our vehicle traffic has increased and we are able to get cars off of Grant Street quite easily. With the upcoming baseball season, we hope there will not be traffic confusion.

Thanking you,
Charlotte Wootton
Team leader

BOOK OTMCC FOR YOUR NEXT GATHERING



The Old Town Mission Community Center (OTMCC), 301 Socorro Street, is now offering space for free or reduced cost for public-interest events. The recently renovated space seats up to 100 people and is ideal for dances, performances, classes, large meetings, art, movement, and body work

Pictures and more info here:
<https://www.lvpresbyterian.org/old-town-mission-community-center/>

Request sponsorship with Star

INQUIRY CLASS FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS



Do you like your experiences at First United Presbyterian? Are you fairly new to this faith community and want to learn more? Have you been part of this faith community for a while but, for whatever reason, have not become a member? If so, join Pastor Katie following worship on Sunday, May 5, to learn more about the presbyterian faith tradition and this faith community in particular. Bring your questions and your interest; we'll explore together. This class will prepare you to join the church, should you decide to move forward with membership. We'll meet for a couple of hours; lunch will be provided. If you plan to attend OR if you are interested but can't attend at this time, please let Pastor Katie know.

DONATIONS OF PERENNIALS



We are looking for donations of perennial flowers such as irises, lilies, maybe lilacs, to plant in the front of the church to add more beauty and color. If you have any plants you'd like to donate, contact Charlotte Wootton at 505-429-4972.

COFFEE WITH KATIE

Join Pastor Katie for Coffee with Katie every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at Charlie's. Enjoy good conversation, a cup of tea or coffee, and maybe a cinnamon roll!

ONLINE GIVING REMINDER



If you are using our online giving process, please check the “end date” of your automatic payments. Scan the QR code to the right to make a donation online. 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 Sunday service.



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 in person and via Zoom

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



May 3 Les Jones
May 4 Gene Solyntjes
May 12 Bud Geng
May 20 Robin Carlson
May 24 Bernadette Lujan
May 26 Susan Apodaca
May 31 Don Owens
Pablo Hernandez