



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

APRIL 2024

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

It is just after Easter Sunday as I write this. I am keenly aware that it is my last Easter season with the FUPC family. D.R. and I are busy with our regular commitments and are also beginning to sort and pack our things at home. There is much to do! Knowing that the season of Easter means new growth, change, and even re-creation is meaningful to me as we prepare to enter a new chapter of our lives.

And yet, I am very much feeling torn. We have purchased a house in Centennial, Colorado. It is less than 10 minutes' drive from our daughter Tegan and her family and offers a nearby park and walking trail. It has everything we wanted in our retirement home. On one hand, we are excited about making a home there. Nevertheless, as we begin to pack boxes, we feel the sadness of leaving this place and the family we have here in the FUPC faith community. On the other hand, we know it is time to move into this next phase of our lives, closer to family and freer to spend time with more distant family. And I know, after the discernment of my sabbatical time, that I am ready to be Grandma rather than Pastor. Still, the transition is a difficult one for me.

Transitions often are. They are, I think, supposed to be. We are supposed to be aware of what we leave behind when we move on, as well as of the intentionality it takes to build something new. That is true for D.R. and me as we make our move in a couple of months and true for the church here as it transitions into a new chapter as well. It's true for us as Christians, too, especially during this season when we are perhaps most aware that we are created anew in Christ. That means transition, too; it means sloughing off the old way of being in favor of a new way, a way more aligned with Christ's mission, more aligned with wild and intentional love for all of God's creation. We never quite get the hang of it, so it's good to be reminded each Easter that new life in Christ is something we can choose each day. To follow through on that choice, we need the awareness of the change we want to make and we need the intentionality to become that something new.

So here's to new life!!

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie





WITNESS

WORSHIP TIDBITS

Christ is Risen! We are in the Easter season of the liturgical calendar from now until Pentecost (May 19), when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to people gathered in Jerusalem, as recorded in Acts 2. During this Easter season, we will be “Witnessing God’s Love” through readings from the book of Acts and from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. What does it mean to faithfully witness to God’s love for us? I invite you to ponder that question on your own and to engage with the Scripture each week as we ponder this, and other, questions together.



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.

MEMORIAL FOR FRANK HAGER

The Family of Frank Hager invites you to attend a celebration of Frank’s life on Saturday, April 20, at 10:30 a.m. in the FUPC sanctuary with a luncheon following.



ALOHA AND GOODBYE

With mixed feelings, after 40 years as member and friend of this church Michael and I are leaving Las Vegas and FUPC. We are moving to Ventura, California on Tuesday Feb. 27 to be with our daughter and granddaughters, help Michael retire, be closer to medical care and be 1.8 miles from the ocean.

My love for this church, congregation, mission and history is profound. I know I will miss all of you in unimaginable ways and won't even try to replace FUPC. I will find a church home in CA, but am leaving a big part of my heart with 1000 Douglas. (And eventually our ashes in the columbarium.)

Our thanks and love to all with whom we have walked in the last 40 years and with whom we shared in God's work in this church.


Our new address is 44 Whitman Court Ventura, CA 93003. Our phone number will remain the same 505-429-0379.

Love to all of you,
Judy and Michael

(This article was intended to appear in the March newsletter, but accidentally got left out.)



**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 at starluciaford@gmail.com, or 505-246-8490.

**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING APRIL 21**

Pastor Katie Palmer's last Sunday with us will be on Pentecost, Sunday May 19. A brief congregational meeting will be held on Sunday April 21st following the worship service. A member of the Santa Fe Presbytery Commission on Ministry will be present at the meeting and will be available to answer any questions the congregation has about next steps.



CRAFT FAIR

Old Town Mission Community Center

301 Socorro Street, Las Vegas NM

Saturday April 20, 2024

10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Load in 8:30 A.M.

Reserve Your Vendor Space with Your
Non-refundable

Flat Fee \$25 per Table

Payments due Wednesday April 10th!

Call to Reserve:

Star 505-246-8490 or Kevin 505-425-3296



Raffles!
Live Music!

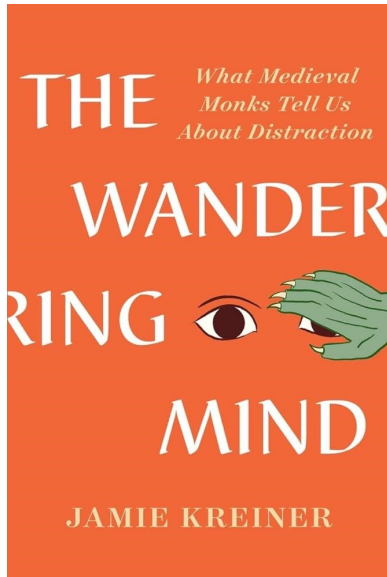


CALLING ALL BAKERS!

The Joint Operating Team will be holding a bake sale during the Earth Day Craft Fair at the Old Town Mission Community Center on Saturday, April 20. Proceeds will help fund programming at the OTMCC. We are calling on all the bakers out there to help us provide baked goods. We will be asking for a donation rather than pricing each item. This usually results in a higher overall donation than individual pricing. Cakes, cookies, breads, and any baked goods are welcome. It would be good to have some

individually-wrapped items for folks to nibble during the event, plus some full cakes and breads for them to take home. Note that health regulations do not allow for us to sell items that need to be kept hot or cold as we do not have a way to monitor the temperature. Please contact D.R. Palmer at 303-775-7259 if you are able to donate some baked goods. THANK YOU!!

Adults and Youth class (finally) focuses on *The Wandering Mind*



Whether we are trying to do a religious-based spiritual practice, or concentrate on a secular project, we all too frequently find ourselves distracted, unable to focus on the task at hand.

The Sunday Morning Class for Adults and Youth will spend a few weeks 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.

Reviewers in major publications have had much to say about this new book—for example: “In *The Wandering Mind*, Dr. Kreiner observes that the modern-day distraction epidemic has revived our interest in medieval monks” (male, female, solitary, cloistered, whoever), “those supposed paragons of concentration, as masters of self-control and calm.”

“So many of us have half-done tasks on our to-do lists and half-read books on our bedside tables, scroll through Instagram while simultaneously semi-watching Netflix, and swipe between apps and tabs endlessly, from when we first open our eyes until we finally fall asleep.” “All kinds of statistics depict our powers of concentration as depressingly withered.”

“The monks inhabited a different world, but they too were deeply preoccupied by the problem of distraction.” “Their monasteries were filled with people who wanted to focus on God but couldn’t. As John of Dalyatha lamented, back in the eighth century, ‘All I do is eat, sleep, drink, and be negligent.’”

Dr. Kreiner’s book “focuses on more than the past, and its implications demand our attention.” Unfortunately she isn’t “promising to cure anyone’s screen addiction with ... one medieval trick.” “She’s offering commiseration, not solutions.”

One final reviewer comments, “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. Perhaps that is why one uncomfortable explanation for why so many aspects of modern life corrode our attention is that they do not merit it.”

“The problem for those of us who don’t live in monasteries but hope to make good use of our days is figuring out what might *The Wandering Mind* moves beyond the question of why the mind wanders to the more difficult, more beautiful question of where it should rest.”

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:

April 7: Introduction and Ch.1, ‘The World,’ pp.1-46

April 14: Ch. 2, ‘Community,’ pp. 47-71

April 21: Ch. 3 ‘Body,’ pp. 72-98

April 28: Ch. 4, ‘Books,’ pp. 99-134

May 5: Ch. 5, ‘Memory,’ pp. 135-163

May 12: Ch. 6, ‘Mind,’ and Conclusion, pp. 164-197

APRIL 2024

April 1, 2024

Dear friends of Presbyterian Women,

I am writing on behalf of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have not met in person for an organized program... understandably in 2000 and 2001. However, with the departure of Nancy Thomas to South Carolina and her capable leadership, we have remained committed to extra mile giving and offering opportunity to gather for the Horizons Bible Study but nothing more as a presbytery group.

While there may be differing needs for community, I want to affirm the local organizations who have remained faithful to Bible Study and giving to support the Presbyterian Women's organization. I have sent over \$10,000 nationally representing giving from this presbytery over the past two and one half years. We may be small but certainly mighty.

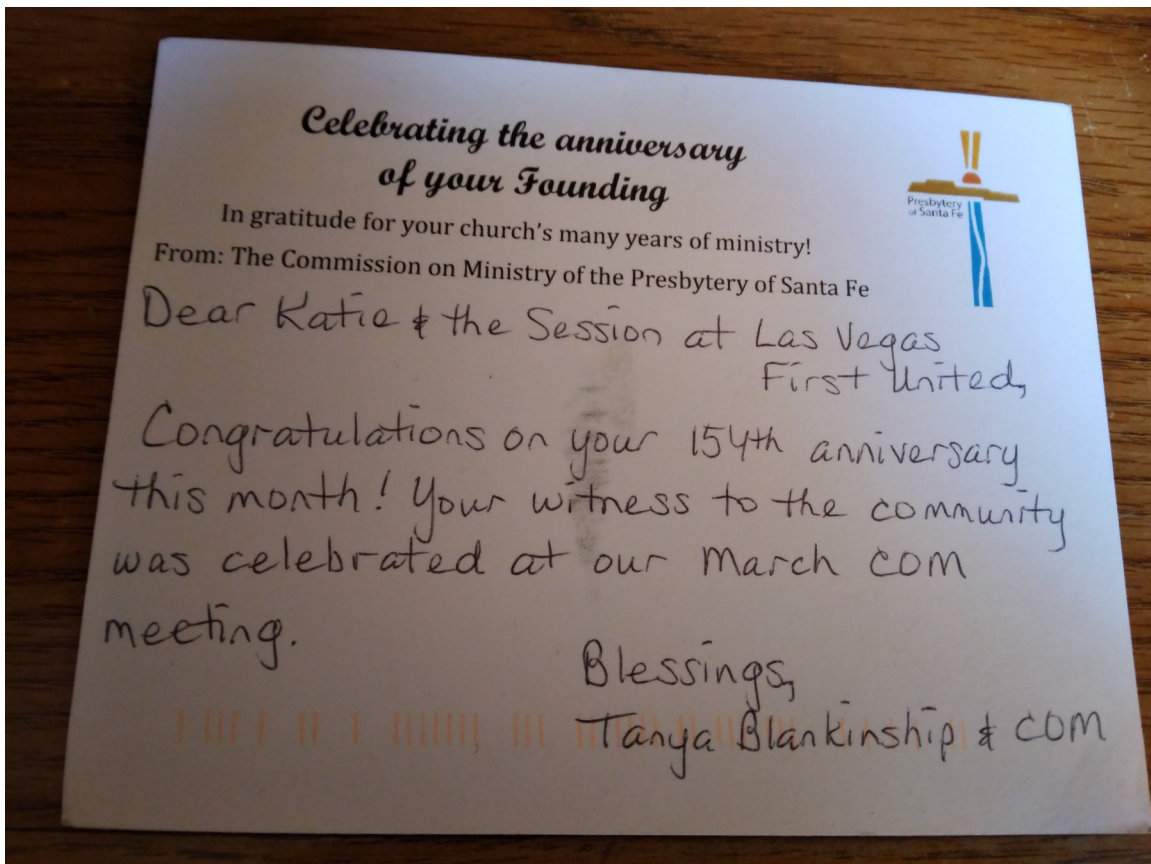
A small group of us have been meeting for the Bible Study and would now like to invite you or a representative from your church to meet ON ZOOM to share our joys and also express the wishes of the group to gather again sometime in person for program and community building.

We will meet at 5:00 on Tuesday, April 16th. Please be in touch with me if someone from your group would join us that afternoon. We welcome your input and want to hear about your group's activities.

Please pass this email along to others who might be willing to join us.

I will send the link to anyone interested.

With grace, peace and resurrection hope,
Susan Keil Smith, coordinator, PW in the Presbytery of Santa Fe
Susankeil1246@gmail.com
505-688-0919



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

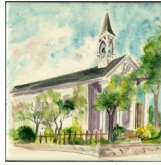


You are welcome and encouraged to worship in the sanctuary, but if you would like to continue worshipping online, here are the instructions to access Zoom:

- 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



April Birthdays!

- | | |
|----------|-------------------|
| April 2 | Carol Linder |
| April 4 | Trudi Samuelson |
| April 14 | Elisa White |
| April 17 | Alastair Buchanan |
| April 19 | Beth Urech |
| April 21 | Art Trujillo |
| April 24 | Carrol Pearson |
| April 25 | Cole Weinstein |
| April 30 | Judy Long |
| | Rebecca Geng |