



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

FEBRUARY 2024

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

A clergy friend recently said, as we were making plans for the Lenten season, that it seems we were just planning for Christmas, and now Ash Wednesday is upon us. Part of that feeling is real, since Ash Wednesday falls fairly early this year—February 14. (Trivia time: The earliest possible date for Ash Wednesday is February 4; the latest possible date is March 10.) But mostly, I think, it's that feeling of time speeding by, which is what most of us feel as we get older.

As you probably have heard, I have announced my intention to retire in May. Where did the last eight years go? They have gone by very fast, but not so fast that I haven't had time to develop a connection to this place and to all of you. I will miss you all deeply. But I am also looking forward to some deep relaxation (Comedy writer Gene Perret once said, "Retirement is wonderful. It's doing nothing without worrying about getting caught at it.") and to some new adventures. Our retirement will include a move to the Denver area to be close not only to good healthcare facilities but to our daughter Tegan and her family; it will also include more frequent visits with our Wisconsin daughter Emily and her family. We are looking forward to seeing where else this retirement adventure will take us.

Fred Rogers said, "Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." I know that will be the case for D.R. and me, even though we don't know the details yet of the "something else." I also know that will be the case for this faith community. Being at the end of my pastorate here means that you will soon be at the beginning of a wonderful something else. The more who are involved in the nurturing of that something else, the more promise it holds. I encourage you to participate in the opportunities to help shape FUPC's future and to commit to involvement in the new something else.

I will savor the next few months with you all as we work together toward the new thing God will do here.

With thanks for all of you,  
Pastor Katie

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? –Isaiah 43:19a*

Deep thanks to all of those who brought food and lifted prayers for D.R. and me while we were sick in December. And many thanks for the Christmas cards and gifts!

## WORSHIP TIDBITS



Easter comes a little early this year—March 31. That means Lent begins in mid-February. [(How is the date of Easter, and therefore Lent, decided, you might ask? Well, Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon (March 25) that occurs after the spring equinox (March 19)]. FUPC’s Lent theme will be “Stops Along the Way.” We’ll be looking through the lens of the Gospel of Mark at Jesus’ journey to the cross.



Pastor Katie, Mother Jill from St. Paul’s Peace, and Pastor Joe from First United Methodist have been working together to plan ecumenical services for the season. Please plan to attend! We are sharing in offering various services, so not all services will be held at each church.

First, put 5:30 p.m. February 13 on your calendar! This is the Tuesday before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and FUPC will host a Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras supper, at which Mother Jill will lead us in a Burning of the Palms liturgy and will burn palms from last year to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. The Worship and Music Committee will coordinate a **pancake and sausage supper**; please plan to bring a side dish or some fruit juice to share! The Deacons will be in charge of decorations and set-up. Please contact D.R. Palmer ([303-775-7356](tel:303-775-7356)/[pathfarer@gmail.com](mailto:pathfarer@gmail.com)) to volunteer to help with this event.

Here’s the calendar for services during this season:

February 13, 5:30 p.m. – Fat Tuesday supper at First United Presbyterian

Ash Wednesday, February 14 - “Ashes to Go” from 10 a.m. – Noon (location to be announced)

Ash Wednesday, February 14, Noon - service at St. Paul’s Peace

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 5:30 p.m. - Service at First United Methodist

Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:30 a.m. - Ecumenical Liturgy of the Palms at 8<sup>th</sup> and National, followed by pilgrimage walk or drive to individual church services

Maundy Thursday, March 28, Noon - Stations of the Cross at St. Paul’s Peace

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. - Service at First United Methodist

Good Friday, March 29, 7:00 p.m. - Tenebrae Service at First United Presbyterian

Easter Saturday Vigil, March 30, 7:00 p.m. - St. Paul’s Peace

Easter Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul’s Peace  
10:30 a.m. at First United Presbyterian  
11:00 a.m. at First United Methodist

## JOIN PASTOR KATIE FOR A DISCUSSION-RICH ADVENT STUDY!

The Sunday morning class will begin its Lenten season discussion of *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass on February 18. Bass is a Christian historian and writer of eleven books on religion in America. She has also written for many other publications, from *The New York Times* to *The Christian Century*. Bass calls *Freeing Jesus* a “theology memoir.” According to the book’s cover, the most frequent question Bass is asked is “How can you still be a Christian?” Reading on:

It is a question that many people ponder as they wrestle with disappointment and disillusionment in their church and its leadership when they try to fit Jesus into a one-size-fits-all box. But while many Christians have left their churches, they find they cannot leave Jesus or their faith behind. Looking back over her life, Bass shares . . . how her experience of Jesus has changed over the years—viewing him at different times as friend, teacher, savior, Lord, way, and presence. *Freeing Jesus* then explores the historical and theological backgrounds behind the multitude of ways Christians have experienced Jesus.

Class meets at 8:45 on Sunday mornings in the Session Room from February 18 – March 24. The book is available from Amazon for \$14.39 plus shipping; from Alibris for \$12.45 plus shipping; and new and used from other sellers as well.

Reading assignments (pagination based on hardcover copy) are:

February 18: Introduction, “Liberate Jesus,” pp. xiii-xxvii, and Chapter 1, “Friend,” pp. 1-25. Before reading, jot down what it means to you for Jesus to be a friend.

February 25: Chapter 2, “Teacher,” pp. 27-64. Before reading, jot down what it means to you for Jesus to be a teacher.

March 3: Chapter 3, “Savior,” pp. 65-113. Before reading, jot down what it means to you for Jesus to be a savior.

March 10: Chapter 4, “Lord,” pp. 115-160. Before reading, jot down what it means to you for Jesus to be Lord.

March 17: Chapter 5, “Way,” pp. 161-215. Before reading, jot down what it means to you for Jesus to be the Way.

March 24: Chapter 6, “Presence,” pp. 217-256 and Conclusion, “The Universal Jesus,” pp. 257-268. Before reading, jot down what it means to you for Jesus to be a Presence.



**SUNDAY CLASS HAS RESUMED *THE THEOLOGIES OF BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN***

The Church’s Christian education program will be discussing the remaining chapters of the book *The Grace of God and the Grace of Man: The Theologies of Bruce Springsteen* by Azzan Yadin-Israel through February 11, led by Richard Lindeborg. For more information about the book, see the November 2023 newsletter.

Classes meet Sundays 8:45 – 9:45 via Zoom and in the Session room, next to the kitchen in Perea Hall. Enter the building through the west entrance. Zoom access is the same as for the Sunday worship service: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081>, or by phone (312-626-6799).

**Reading Assignments:**

- Feb. 4 Ch. 6, The Struggle Within, pp. 133-151
- Feb. 11 Ch. 7, Springsteen’s Midrash, pp. 159-178
- Conclusion pp. 179-181

**Springsteen Resources Available by Email from [RALindeborg@cs.com](mailto:RALindeborg@cs.com)**

A list of the song titles, album titles and year recorded for the songs included in each chapter.  
Lyrics for the songs included in each chapter.

(The audio for most songs is available on Youtube and elsewhere on the Internet.)



**WE’LL MISS YOU, JUDY AND MICHAEL!**

Join us following worship on February 25 to wish Judy and Michael Long well as they head off to new adventures in California. **The celebration will be a potluck**, so please bring a dish to share and, if you like, a note or card to share with Judy and Michael as we remember their many contributions to our mission and to our church family.



Dear Church Family,

The Deacons are occasionally asked to provide meals for church members in need. Usually these requests are for individuals who are facing illnesses, surgeries, medical procedures, and recuperation times. Sometimes, we just like to take a meal to someone to show them that their church family cares about them. We are dedicated to this mission of our church and feel that a good meal not only feeds the body, but feeds the soul as well.



Often these requests come to us one right after another, and it becomes difficult for our small group to handle them. Would you consider adding your name to a “back-up meals” list, and occasionally providing a meal to someone in need? We will contact you to see if the timing is right for you to help out.

Please contact Juli Salman to be added to our Meals Ministry list.

Thank you!

Juli Salman  
juli@nm360.com  
(505) 429-0290



### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

FUPC has a tradition of contributing to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Please plan to donate this Sunday, February 11, to help feed the hungry. You can donate in person next week or online ([lvpresbyterian.org](http://lvpresbyterian.org)) throughout February by clicking on the Donate button and locating the Souper Bowl section or by sending a check to the church office with “Souper Bowl!” on the memo line. Thank you for your continued giving to our community!

## This Church

by Ann Weems in *Searching for Shalom*

We don't pretend to understand the mystery  
of what goes on in God's Church.  
We just know we feel a pervading spirit of love  
that reaches into the niches of all of us  
and pulls us out into the open,  
free and alive and belonging.  
We believe this spirit of love exists because  
God's spirit lives within this Church,



this unity of persons trying  
to be the Good News.  
We see this Church as a circle of persons  
holding hands . . . and dancing . . .  
supporting each other, accepting each other,  
loving each other.  
Each person in this dancing circle  
is facing outward . . . reaching into God's world,  
listening for the whimpering,  
watching for the hurting,  
willing to offer a cup of cold water  
in [God's] name.  
Sometimes they need the water;  
sometimes you need the water;  
sometimes I need the water.  
Being a part of the Church  
means knowing that  
the cup is always filled  
in [God's] name.

## 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](mailto: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

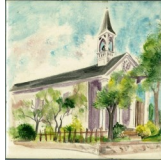


You are welcome and encouraged to worship in the sanctuary, but if you would like to continue worshipping online, here are the instructions to access Zoom:

- The easiest way to join worship or other FUPC public events is simply to go to our website ([lvpresbyterian.org](http://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](http://www.lvpresbyterian.org)

Facebook: Las Vegas First United Presbyterian (NM)

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

**Sunday Schedule**

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

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



- February 3 Charlotte Wootton
- Pauline Dimsey
- February 17 Christie Basket
- February 22 Soledad Gilland
- February 24 Claire Weinstein
- February 28 Athena Gilland