



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

MAY 2020

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Friends,

I have lost two people to COVID-19—a high school classmate and a dear friend from our church in Colorado. Several of my friends have gone through the scare of having a loved one suffer through the disease. Last week, our daughter was not feeling well and her doctor thought she might have COVID. Thankfully, her test came back negative. I am grieving these losses and feeling the fear that I and everyone I know is experiencing. A young woman I know was furloughed and can no longer afford to pay her rent; as a result, I am more keenly aware of the economic stresses people are experiencing. I see news stories about people protesting stay-at-home orders; by their actions, they put many at risk and have sometimes blocked ambulance access to hospitals. I see hatefulness and fear taking the spotlight wherever I look; sometimes my gut wrenches in response to the horrible name-calling that all of us are hearing and seeing.

How are we to be an Easter people in these times?

Of course, these are exactly the times in which we are most called to live the meaning of Easter. Yes; Easter is about joyfully shouting CHRIST IS RISEN! and understanding that Christ's resurrection signals for us the death of death itself and new life to come. But in the midst of pandemic, our Easter morning shouts and liturgies might seem woefully inadequate—even irrelevant—in our daily reality.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, I invite you today to see our resurrection life in a new light.

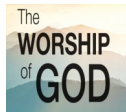
- If you are grieving the loss of someone from COVID-19 or are mourning the losses reported in the news each day, you do so out of love for those being lost and for those feeling loss. Your grief is a demonstration of the love to which Christ calls us.
- If you are fearful for the potential harm that might come to those who will inevitably get sick and fearful for those working on the front lines to provide medical care and essential services, you are fearful out of concern for your immediate and larger communities—communities that we are called to nurture. Your fear is a sign of the community we share as Christ's Easter people.
- If you know someone or have read about people caught in the economic crisis that has resulted from the pandemic and are worried about their struggles to pay rent, to collect rent, or to put food on the table, your worry is a loving response of concern for Christ's people. It is a call to do what you can to help and a call to consider how we can establish an economy of love rather than one of greed.
- If you are angry, sad, or any of a huge range of emotions about the mistrust and hatefulness we are seeing in the media, your emotion is valid and points to the risen Christ within who aches for unity and justice. Feel also the Christ within who tells you that people everywhere are scared and angry and, well, human. We are called to point out when their emotions have led them to be a part of the problem rather than of the solution, but first, we are called to recognize them as God's beloved children.

When it is hard to joyfully shout "CHRIST IS RISEN," try instead whispering "The risen Christ is with me." Then, recognize the feelings that are the ways in which we humans sometimes express love; do what you can to help those in need; and, when you are compelled to speak out, do so out of love.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie



WORSHIP TIDBITS



Thank you all for being so flexible during this time when we are unable to gather together in the sanctuary. It's been so wonderful to see the way you have adapted to worship in an online format. For many of us, this type of meeting is nothing new and so worship was just a new context for gathering together online. But for some of us, downloading apps and making sure microphones and cameras were all working correctly has been completely new. So kudos to everyone! It's so good to see your faces and/or hear your voices on Sundays and to be surprised by the guests who join us now and then!

I also wanted to say that we really don't know what will happen next. Our stay-at-home restrictions have been extended until mid-May at least. We could begin to see some looser restrictions put in place after that; we could also see another extension of restrictions. I think it's safe to say that, even if some of our physical distancing restrictions are loosened, we will probably not be able to meet as a large group in the same physical space for a while yet. Please know that FUPC leaders are already starting to consider recommendations for what "re-entry" might look like, operating from the perspective that our priority is to proceed in ways that best allow us to love and protect each other.

And, for the record, when I started this "Worship Tidbits" section of the newsletter four years ago to explain some of the history and theology behind our order of worship and our worship design, I would not have foreseen that I would be writing about online worship. Consider that! Going forward, faith communities around the world will start writing into their by-laws and Policies/Procedures Manuals information about online worship and guidelines for online governing practices.

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Remember that we have three social gatherings via Zoom each week. You can download the app on your computer or you can call in by phone. Here's the schedule:

- Sunday morning fellowship following worship. Hang around after the postlude and spend a few minutes chatting with folks!
- Coffee with Katie, Tuesday mornings at 9. We'll chat over coffee or whatever you're drinking at your house. (I'll probably have a nice cup of tea.). It's an opportunity to check in on each other and share stories.
- Thursday Teatime, Thursday afternoons at 3:30. Not a morning person? Need some more interaction? Fix yourself a nice cup of tea (or other beverage of your choice) and settle in for a visit with members of your church family.



A HUGE THANK-YOU to those folks who have been recording devotionals each week. In addition to the devotional Pastor Katie records on Mondays, each of these folks has faithfully recorded a devotional video to be posted on Facebook so that we have daily weekday devotionals! Join me in applauding Lisa Weinstein, Rod Billingsley, Pat Halverson, and Karyl Lyne for guiding us with thoughtfulness and inspiration!

TO JOIN ANY FUPC EVENTS VIA ZOOM:

Open your web browser and go to <https://us04web.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 sometime before the event so that you can get the Zoom app set up ahead of time. It takes a few minutes.

If you have the Zoom app, you can use the link above or you can just open the app, click Join, and enter the meeting id. **The meeting ID for all public church events is 573-920-0081.**

If you don't have a computer but want **to join by phone, call 312-626-7699** and enter the ID number 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.

EASTERTIDE WORSHIP: *FAITHFUL WITNESSES*



During this Eastertide, we will be walking with those early post-resurrection followers of Jesus to learn about being faithful witnesses. We'll consider how we witness the Scripture passages presented to us, how we witness what goes on around us, how we see God working in the world, and how we give witness to our experiences of God. If you'd like to do some study on your own, here are the Scripture passages planned for this season:

April 26 - Acts 1:1-14

May 3 - Acts 3:1-10

May 10 - Acts 17:1-9 and 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

May 17 - Acts 18:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

May 24 - (PENTECOST) – Acts 2:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-13



REMEMBER:

PLAN TO WEAR COLORS OF FIRE ON PENTECOST!

Let's see lots of red, yellow, and orange!



COMMUNITY LIFE

We hope everyone is doing well and staying sane! Although it is hard to make plans for the congregation at this point, we are still meeting and discussing the future.

At our last Zoom meeting we discussed setting up small groups to visit with each other or do whatever you can via Zoom just to keep in touch, share what you have been doing and share ideas.

We have also decided that we will postpone our 2020 retreat until 2021. Judy Long has been working with Ghost Ranch and will be talking with them about reserving space next September. We have all been looking forward to the retreat but feel it is safest to reschedule. We will be in contact with those who have already put down their deposit.



CLERK'S CORNER

I am happy to report to you that FUPC has submitted its 2020 per capita fees of \$3,045 for 87 members @ \$35 a piece to the Presbytery. As you remember, these fees support the work of the two mid-councils of our church's governance structure, the presbytery and the synod, and the general assembly.

If you would like to donate your per capita fee, you can do so online at donate on the FUPC website or write a check for your fee/s with 'per capita' in the memo line.

I am also pleased to let you know that the session has approved FUPC's support of Camp Loma Verde near Taos with \$300 towards its annual \$4K liability insurance. Camp Loma Verde, a 501c3 entity, hosts youth and science camps, class and family reunions, and church groups through the summer. FUPC had two summer retreats there some years ago. If you'd like to learn more about Camp Loma Verde go to www.lomaverdecamp.com.

Karyl Lyne, Clerk of Session

2020 FIRST QUARTER TREASURER'S SUMMARY



The first quarter of 2020 reflects a genuine spirit of generosity on the part of you, the members and friends of FUPC. The pandemic has NOT dampened the enthusiasm and participation of our church family! Thanks to every single one of you for your faithfulness in giving to the fulfillment of God's work here in Las Vegas and beyond.

Our Treasurer's Report, ending March 31, shows donations to be well above projections for this point in the calendar year. However, that is in great part, due to the fact, that a number of folks have already given their entire annual gift for 2020. We are very grateful and appreciative for this! It is difficult for me, however, without a functioning crystal ball, to know how this will affect the overall future giving patterns. For instance, building use income is non-existent, due to the pandemic restrictions, and gifts from friends, and loose plate giving are likewise decreased.

The Balance Sheet is looking strong, at this time. We are holding more available cash in the church checking account than usual, so that we will be able to reimburse stucco completion and landscaping efforts. Our Mutual Fund balance reflects a recent \$100,000 bequest from Elizabeth Hansbury, as was featured in last month's newsletter.

Please know that Linda is receiving your generous donations, and recording them in a timely fashion. Remember that you can always use the online donation portal through Vanco, or mail in your gifts to FUPC @ P.O. Box 37, Las Vegas, NM 87701.

To donate online, go to www.lvpresbyterian.org; click on the GIVE menu item, which will take you to a screen where you will find a DONATE button.

Mary Schipper, Treasurer



2020 CELEBRATION

Our big bash procession and celebration that we had planned for June 20, 2020 is postponed until 2021 because of the health concerns around the COVID-19 virus. You'll be hearing more next year! In the meantime, watch for the "Did You Know" articles in the newsletter and elsewhere for interesting facts about our heritage.



SEASONS

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." In consideration of this Bible verse, the Community Life Committee has decided to postpone the all-church retreat by a year.

With the uncertainty of Corona virus in our lives, and its path unknown, we decided to plan for September 17, 18 and 19 of 2021. We will still be going to Ghost Ranch and it will be a celebration of what will then be our 151st anniversary. Please put this on your calendars, and that will give us even more time to plan an amazing retreat. Ghost Ranch will just roll over our deposit and plan for 2021. Our guest speaker, facilitator has agreed to 2021.

If you have made your \$50 deposit, we'd like to just roll that over as well. If you need the \$50 returned, please speak to Linda.

MAY 2020



OLD TOWN MISSION COMMUNITY CENTER

During this time of New Mexico State Public Health ordered limits on crowds and social distancing, the Old Town Mission Community Center is understandably dormant in terms of activities, which normally take place on site. However, The SPOT Youth Team continues to meet online under the guidance of Pat Leahan. The members may be spread out around the country and the world but they have maintained interest in working together through this difficult time.

Pat has submitted the OTMCC details to be included in the renewed “100% Community Initiative Resource Guide”. They are attempting to record all the youth mentoring activities available in the community in one place. Hopefully this will

In the meantime, selected members of JOT are working on keeping the inside of the Old Town Mission sanitized while we wait for the day when we can return to normal activities.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC (A.K.A. WAM)

Worship and Music continues to discuss various options for Sunday service. Following guidelines and opinions from other sources we have changed the way we “do” church. We hope that our Zoom services have been helping you stay connected to God and each other.

WAM would like to thank D.R. Palmer, Jeff Salman and Carol Linder for all their technical help.

We will continue to plan as we start getting back to “normal”.

Don’t forget to join us for Sunday worship, Coffee with Katie on Tuesday and Tea Time on Thursday, all on Zoom.



TT&T COMMITTEE

The committee has been doing a variety of things that could be lumped under the title of Housekeeping”. Mundane, but still needs to get done. We continue to update the FUPC P&P’s. We also spent a lot of time on updates to the Finance and Accounting P&P Manual. (Bet you didn’t even know we had one!) It needed quite a bit of work, as it had been some years since the last revision. We need to match the P&P’s to the ways we actually do business, and our procedures change with the times, what with electronic donations and all.

We are also doing our annual “audit” or review of financial transactions. That should be reported at the next committee meeting in May.

We begin work on the budget soon. Make your plans for 2021 and let us know if there are any substantial changes from this year’s budget.

Van Swan, Co-chair



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH B & G

Hello to all of you. Buildings and Grounds has been at a slight stand still with the projects, except for minor repairs to the East door latch and lock. Please, if you use that door Do NOT SLAM it because that knocks the catch off. Be sure it closes but no slamming. Thanks.

A smoke detector battery was replaced, and the library was painted. So, a few one-person jobs have been done. We did have a roof leak in the bathroom at the OTM when it snowed. We have that on the list to try and find it and fix it. Hope all your personal projects are getting done also.

Thanks for all of your support and patience.

Robin Carlson, Chairperson - B & G



These blurbs about our church history will appear in several places. Share them with friends after you read them. The following three have already been posted in What's Happening and will also be collected through the month to appear in the newsletter. They will also appear on the website.

DID YOU KNOW, in 1870, what would become the oldest existing New Mexico Protestant Church building standing today, was erected on Socorro Street in Las Vegas, NM. The original First Presbyterian Church was built by Rev. John Annin and his associate Jose Ynes Perea, later to become Rev. Jose Perea.

DID YOU KNOW, the bell in the Douglas Avenue church steeple was cast in Troy, NY, and weighs 831 pounds. The bell was hauled the last 250 miles into Las Vegas by wagon train because the Santa Fe railroad ended in Grenada, Colorado.

DID YOU KNOW, the railroad arrived in East Las Vegas on July 4, 1879. The new town grew up around the railroad and was the impetus for construction of a new church building on Douglas Avenue in 1880. The original church on Socorro Street was virtually abandoned until a Spanish Presbyterian church was organized in 1884. In 1960 the two churches combined into the present Presbyterian church at 1000 Douglas Avenue.

If you have a favorite memory, photo (or both) to share as part of DID YOU KNOW, please send to fsvandermeer@gmail.com. Source material for DID YOU KNOW comes largely from a timeline of the church created by Richard Lindeborg. Logos information and photos provided by Carol Linder.



M&P has recommended that we have a 'Christmas in July' fundraiser for the Garden Well Project. As you may remember, FUPC has supported giving to the PCUSA Giving Catalog Garden Well Project for a number of years. A Garden Well costs \$1500 and provides a well and hand pumps for a reliable and convenient source of clean water. This resonates with us here in Northern New Mexico because we understand the need for a reliable source of water. By making the Garden Well a 'Christmas in July' Project, we spread our mission fundraising projects out through the year, making it easier for donors to participate. We hope you'll give generously to the Garden Well Project on July 5, 12 or 19, and thanks!

M&P has learned that Pasos de Fe y Esperanza, A.C. is moving all operations into Mexico and partnering with the Presbytery of Tres Rios to continue accepting funding and support. In a letter from Rev. Tim Gray, Pasos de Fe Treasurer, "A vast majority of our services and work happens in Mexico and so it only stands to reason that that is where we should be based, and due to administrative challenges with our parent organization, Presbyterian Border Region Outreach, now is a good time to transition. The transition will take time, but in the meantime, checks received since Jan. 31, 2020, cannot be cashed. The Presbytery of Tres Rios has graciously offered to receive designated offerings to Pasos de Fe and disperse those funds to Pasos de Fe y Esperanza through appropriate and lawful channels. As soon as the transition is completed, we will contact you with new procedures on how to continue to support our work. Checks naming Pasos de Fe in the "for" line can be made out to: Tres Rios Presbytery, 1201 W. Wall Street, Midland, TX. 79701." SOOOO, those who give to Pasos De Fe, please make note of this change and keep an eye out for the new information in the newsletter.

Karyl Lyne, Chair

MAY 2020



SUNDAY CLASS: A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Sunday morning Bible-based class for adults and youth will begin a new series on May 24, based on the book *The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers: Spiritual Insights from the World's Most Beloved Neighbor* by Amy Hollingsworth. The discussions will be led by Richard Lindeborg.

There is more to this short book than the title promises. It is a story about how the author, a Christian writer of a fairly conservative bent came to know Fred Rogers, the famous television host, who also happened to be a Presbyterian minister of a fairly liberal persuasion. The book is as much about how the author came to appreciate Mr. Rogers' theology as it is about describing his "simple" faith.

The author worked for eight years as a writer for the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), "a global ministry committed to preparing the nations of the world for the coming of Jesus Christ through mass media." She pitched an idea to her editor to interview Mr. Rogers, curious to know if he was the person he seemed to be on his show. Her interview with Rogers in 1994 was the start of a nine-year friendship, mostly by correspondence, that lasted until his death in 2003. What passed in many of those exchanged letters comprises much of the book.

Her other books include *Gifts of Passage: What the Dying Tell Us with the Gifts They Leave Behind* (2008); *Holy Curiosity: Cultivating the Creative Spirit in Everyday Life* (2011), and *Letters from the Closet: Ten Years of Correspondence that Changed My Life* (2013).

Readers have said:

"Her focus was what they shared about their Christianity."

"[This book is f]or fans of Mister Rogers and people that long for a kinder, gentler version of Christianity than what we see sold in America today. We could all stand to be nicer and a better neighbor to our fellow man. Mister Rogers simply pointed the way to a life of service and love, bound together by faith in the Almighty creator of the world, who taught us how to love."

"Some books are designed to be clever or entertaining. This book is beyond either of those. It is nourishing. While you could read it all in one sitting, it may be wise to read a chapter at a time and reflect on each one. Beautifully done, wonderful, and gentle."

With the church shuttered for the duration of the pandemic, it is best that people who plan to attend this class order their own copies and have them shipped directly to their homes. Richard can order copies for those who do not do online business for \$12.69, shipping included. Email ralindeborg@cs.com.

Availability from Amazon: Kindle \$7.99, used hardcover from \$7.52, used paperback from \$9.57, New Paperback \$12.69, all plus shipping. Amazon has a fairly decent selection below retail.

Alibris: has used paperbacks for as little as \$7 and hardcovers for \$9.99 plus shipping, but not many this cheap.

Abe Books has used hardcovers for as little as \$6 plus shipping. Paperbacks are significantly more for some reason.

For now, classes are planned for 9:15 a.m. on Sundays on Zoom, through the same link as the worship service.

Reading Assignments

May 24	Introduction: The Real Mister Rogers – pp. xvii-xxxiii
May 31	Ch. 1. The Importance of Taking Time, The Importance of Silence - pp. 1-13
	Ch. 2. A Presence Transformed by Prayer - pp. 19-29
June 7	Ch. 3. The Wondrous Work of the Holy Spirit - pp. 33-46
	Ch. 4. The Best Gift: Your Honest Self - pp. 53-69
June 14	Ch. 5. Who Is My Neighbor? - pp. 75-88
	Ch. 6. The Power of Forgiveness - pp. 98-105
June 21	Ch. 7. The Least of These - pp. 113-126
	Ch. 8. Difficult Times - pp. 129-145
June 28	Ch. 9. Heading Toward Heaven - pp. 151-161
	Epilogue - pp. 163-165

First United Presbyterian Church

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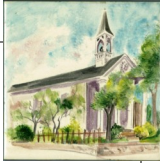
Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. - Jumpstart Breakfast:

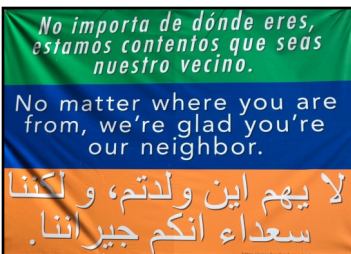
9:30 a.m. - Bible Based Study

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship

Fellowship Hour following the worship service



MAY 2020



A PRAYER FROM TERESA OF AVILA

Let nothing disturb you.

Let nothing upset you.

Everything changes.

God alone is unchanging.

With Patience, all things are possible.

Whoever has God lacks nothing.

God alone is enough.



3 rd	Leslie Jones
4 th	Gene Solyntjes
8 th	Joyce Litherland
10 th	Molly Salman
12 th	Mack Salman
20 th	Robin Carlson
24 th	Bernadette Lujan
26 th	Susan Apodaca
31 st	Don Owens



Deep and Wide

*A Contemplative Service at the
Old Town Mission*

Canceled thru May 2020

Questions? Call D.R. Palmer 303-775-7259



Communion is normally offered each Sunday from October 6 through Pentecost (May 31, 2020) and on the first and third Sundays of each month from June through September. We do not celebrate Communion on the fifth Sunday of a month due to the addition of the Healing Liturgy to the service.



Samaritan House Food Donations

MAY

Rice and Beans

Coffee and Tea are always appreciated