

HELLO FUPC FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

In this mailing you'll find a note from Pastor Katie and the bulletin for Sunday's worship service. Join us Sunday at 10:30 via zoom by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081> or join us by phone (312-626-6799). If you're joining by phone, enter meeting ID 573-920-0081. If you've not used zoom before, follow the instructions provided at the link. If you need help with zoom, call D.R. Palmer before Sunday. It is so good to see and hear each other! Please plan to join us!



THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

Tuesday, December 15

9:00 a.m. -Coffee with Katie via Zoom
3:00 p.m. – Community Life via Zoom
6:30 p.m. – Session via Zoom

Thursday, December 17

10:00 a.m. – 2020 Task Force via Zoom
3:30 p.m. – Tea Time with Katie via Zoom

Assisting in Worship This Week

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer	Worship Leader – Sharon Roe
Accompanist – Em Krall	Zoom Host – D.R. Palmer
Director of Music – Karyl Lyne	Visuals – Tegan Palmer



First United Presbyterian Church
1000 Douglas Avenue
PO Box 37
Las Vegas NM 87701

December 9, 2020

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

This Sunday, we enter the third week of Advent—a week where we attend to the joy God gives. During this time of COVID, some of the joys we usually experience—especially the joy of being together—elude us. Certainly, community is one of God's biggest gifts to us, which is why we commit ourselves to online community during this time. It's not the same, but it is still such a joy for us to see one another's faces and hear each other's voices. Even so, joy can be hard right now. What are you doing to find joy in your life, even under COVID restrictions? Celebrate those joys and offer thanks to God for them!

Below, you'll find some suggestions for your Advent devotionals for the week of joy.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

Sunday – We light the candle of Joy this week. Pray this or a similar prayer each day as you light a candle: *We shout our praises to you, O God of Joy, for your steadfast love and for the faithfulness you show to us. We strive to be your joyous people, though sometimes joy eludes us amid the reality of human discord and the ills that befall us. Let the promise of your joy guide us even when it is elusive; give us both the quiet joy of your love and the boisterous joy of celebration. And let us share both. Amen.*

This week, start each day's devotional with this prayer.

Monday – Write or draw how you experience joy. You may choose to write a poem or prayer, a short story, or a journal entry. You may draw a simple image in pencil. Or paint an entire canvas in oils. Feel free to revise/continue this work throughout the week.

Tuesday – Ponder this excerpt from the poem “Hymn of Joy” by Henry Van Dyke. We know some of the verses of this poem in our hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.” This verse is not included in our hymnal:

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,--
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the Joy Divine.

Wednesday – Do something creative you love with joyful abandon—fingerpaint, dance, sing, cook, bake, eat, bike, hike. Enjoy every minute, and then consider the joy doing that thing gives you. Where do you find God in it?

Thursday – Who gives you joy? Make a list of those people who bring joy to your life, then say a prayer of thanks for each of them by name. Send one or more people on your list an “I’m thinking of you” card or note or give them a call to tell them how they bring joy into your life.

Friday – Take a walk—around your house, yard, neighborhood or wherever you'd like. As you walk, look for something that gives you joy or that reveals your sense of joy. Take a photo of it. (If you don't have a camera with you, take a mental photo.) Share the photo on the church Facebook page or with a friend.

Saturday – Look back over the devotional activities for the week—the prayer, what you've written or drawn, Van Dyke's poem, your creative joy experience, your recognition of someone who gives you joy, and your photo. Articulate for yourself what these things reveal about how you see joy in your life and in the world. How might our Potter God be shaping you through joy?

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

December 6, 2020 10:30 a.m.



YIELDING TO THE POTTER

MEDITATION – *You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy.* – Psalm 16:11a

WE GATHER TOGETHER

WELCOME Rev. Katie Palmer
PRELUDE Em Krall
ANNOUNCEMENTS Sharon Roe
MINUTE FOR MISSION – Christmas Joy Offering Carol Litherland
PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Let us make a commitment during this time to call someone today,
visit with them, and wish them the peace of Christ.*

OPENING PROCLAMATION – Psalm 126:1-3

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’
The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

ADVENT INTROIT *Shape This Lump of Clay*

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (GTG #93)

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 61:1-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;
but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory.
Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

SERMON “*Instead of*” Joy Rev. Katie Palmer

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

RESPONSE *The Ritual of the Advent Wreath – JOY*

A GOD EXPERIENCE Carol Linder

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

CLOSING HYMN *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*, (GTG #104)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



WELCOME!! - We extend a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today.

- * **This year's Advent Study** is a discussion led by Richard Lindeborg of the book *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* by Timothy Keller (2016). Sessions are on Zoom at 9:15 on Sunday mornings through December 20. The reading assignment for December 20 **SKIPS ONE CHAPTER** to Chapter 5 "Mary's Faith" pp.63-78 [Luke: Annunciation and response]. Since sessions have already started it might be best to purchase a Kindle copy or order a hard copy with expedited shipping. Richard can also order a copy shipped directly to your home. The Class will continue the study of this book through January 17, discussing chapters based on Christmas and its promise.
- * **Christmas Eve Service** – Thursday, December 24 @ 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Connect via the same link used for Sunday worship services.
- * The **Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Donations are received throughout December. If you give online, you will find a listing there for the Christmas Joy Offering.
- * **Samaritan House Food Donations** – December - Canned meats, tuna, chicken - Coffee and Tea are always appreciated. Please drop your donations off at Samaritan House.
- * **Prayers for the Church Family** - Each week we choose some specific names to remind us to pray for each other and for those in our Presbytery. Please pray for Maridell & Don Monnheimer, Rustie Mountjoy, and Don Owens as well as Camino de Vida, Albuquerque NM (2009).



*December Elder of the Month – D.R. Palmer – 303-775-7259
December Deacon of the Month – Sharon Vander Meer – 505-617-0839
Church Office closed to the public, but calls and emails will be answered
Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

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