

## 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 29

NO Coffee with Katie

#### Thursday, December 31

Annual Committee/Task Force Reports Due

NO Tea Time with Katie

#### Friday, January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Church holiday—office closed

#### Assisting in Worship This Week

Preacher – Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein  
Director of Music - Karyl Lyne  
Zoom Host – Carol Linder

Worship Leader – Renee Soderlund  
Accompanist – Em Krall  
Visuals – Tegan Palmer



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



December 23, 2020

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

D.R. and I will be enjoying some vacation time starting Christmas Day. Thank you to those who have stepped in to lead worship while I am away. This Sunday, December 27, Renee Soderlund will keep things organized and on track as worship leader. Thank you to Carol Linder who will be Zoom host while D.R. and I are away and, of course, to Karyl Lyne, Em Krall, and our singers. Thanks also to Linda Solyntjes, who works with me and, for these couple of weeks, with our guest preachers to get bulletins out to everyone. On January 3, we'll welcome our own Pastor Emeritus Rev. Randy Campbell to the pulpit and Elder of the Month Carol Litherland as Worship Leader. This Sunday, I am pleased that my good friend, The Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein, will be joining FUPC as our guest preacher.

I know worshiping on Zoom isn't the same as being together in the sanctuary, sharing handshakes and hugs, but it does give us the opportunity to invite people—like Dan—to join us from a distance. Dan currently serves as the Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Lake Huron, whose office is located in Saginaw, Michigan. I first met Dan in 2004 when he became Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks about the time I became a Commissioned Lay Pastor in that presbytery. As I recall, my first introduction to Dan was at my oral exam with the Committee on Ministry. Yikes! Well, I *was* commissioned and Dan preached at my commissioning service. That was all before I even thought about going to seminary to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Dan has served as Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Lake Huron since 2015. He previously served in executive roles for the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks and the Synod of the Sun. From 1983-2004 he pastored congregations in Idaho, Utah, and Washington state. Dan is a graduate of Occidental College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and McCormick Theological Seminary. An admitted “polity wonk,” Dan is serving his third term as a constitutional advisor to the General Assembly. He likes to golf, is an avid film collector, and an occasional film reviewer ([www.presbydude.blogspot.com](http://www.presbydude.blogspot.com)). He and his wife Liz live in Saginaw. They have two grown daughters and one grandson.

I trust you will enjoy having Dan with you and know you will make him welcome.

I also want to thank all of you for the many ways in which you've made 2020 (yes, even 2020) a good year. Your love for one another, your patience, and your good humor helped us through a tough year. Your continued financial support of the church has been remarkable and your willingness to jump into unfamiliar territory as we made a quick switch to online worship, online meetings and online fellowship gatherings speaks to the importance of this church family in your lives. You have blessed one another in the richness of God's love. What a special gift you all are to me! We have some time still ahead of us before we can consider a return to our sanctuary, where we will continue to offer an online presence for those who worship with us from places outside Las Vegas.

I will return to the pulpit on January 10, which is Baptism of the Lord Sunday. As has become our tradition for this day, we will renew our baptismal vows.

With thanks for all of you,  
Pastor Katie

#### **“Christmas Bells” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



**FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701  
December 27, 2020 10:30 a.m.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**MEDITATION** – “Against all odds, no matter what we’ve lost, no matter what messes we’ve made over time, no matter how dark the night, we offer and are offered kindness, soul, light, and food, which create breath and spaciousness, which create hope, sufficient unto the day.”

– Anne Lamott, Almost Everything: Notes on Hope.

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

**WELCOME** Renee Soderlund  
**PRELUDE** Em Krall  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Renee Soderlund  
**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.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**  
Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.  
**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of God's only Son, full of grace and truth.**  
For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**  
Let us worship God.

**OPENING HYMN** *Angels From the Realms of Glory* (GTG #143)

**OPENING PRAYER**

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:22-38  
When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’),<sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.<sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.<sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,<sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.<sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed<sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna, daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage,<sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.<sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**SERMON** *Is It 2021 Yet?* The Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**RESPONSE** – Affirmation of Faith (Galatians 4:4-7 alt.)

We believe that when the fullness of time had come, God sent the Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because we are children, God has sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba!!’ So, we are no longer slaves but children, and if children then also heirs, through God.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** – A Christmas Litany of Intercession

We were heavy with sorrow, but joy interrupted.

We were deep in the night, but a star appeared.

We were silent with sadness, but the heavens rang.

**And the splendor shone around them / When the time had fully come.**

For those hardened by conflict, may your love intervene.

For those frightened by shadows, may your light take them away.

For those haunted by fears, may your child bring them hope.

**And she laid him in a manger / When the time had fully come.**

For those dismal and defeated, may your faith set them on fire.

For those weary and complaining, may their hearts discover praise.

For those doubtful and confused, may the door to life be opened.

**And the guiding star went before them / When the time had fully come.**

For those arrogant and angry, may his innocence disarm them.

For those cruel, crude, and clumsy, may his grace make all things new.

For those selfish, narrow, greedy, may the joy of his birth inspire them to share.

**And they offered him their treasured gifts / When the time had fully come.**

We were sheep who had lost our way, but the shepherd knew our names.

We were strangers without a country, but God’s reign has come among us.

We were children far from home, but God sent the Son to guide us.

**And the Word was made flesh among us / When the time had fully come.**

May the hopes and fears of this year and all our years, which we lift before you now,

Find their joyful fulfillment in Christ, born to us and for all the world.

**For the time has fully come. Amen.**

And now let us pray as our Savior has taught us, saying, “**Our Father, who art in heaven...**”

**WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

**CLOSING HYMN** *Joy to the World* (GTG #134)

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

- \* **Pastor Katie is on vacation** through January 4. If you have pastoral care needs, please call the church office (505-425-7763) or Mary Schipper (505-429-0285).
- \* There will be a brief **congregational meeting** following worship on January 10 to receive the report of the Nominating Committee.
- \* **The Christmas season study** for the Bible-based class for adults and youth is a discussion led by Richard Lindeborg of the rest of book *Hidden Christmas: The surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* by Timothy Keller (2016). Sessions will run through January 17 on Zoom at 9:15 on Sundays. The reading assignment for January 3 is Chapter 6 “The Shepherds’ Faith,” pp. 100-115. 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.
- \* **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 Betty Quick, Caroline Rackley, Kent & Deb Allen-Reid, and Renate Rendon as well as First Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque NM (1880).



*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.*  
[fupc.nm@gmail.com](mailto:fupc.nm@gmail.com) 505-425-7763 [www.lvpresbyterian.org](http://www.lvpresbyterian.org)

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