



Sharing the Love of Christ

First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

PO Box 37

1000 Douglas Avenue

Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

MARCH 2021

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

I am wondering about times when our blinders were removed to show us something for the first time.

I didn't know it until my blinders were removed, but my Aunt Anna was an alcoholic. Since the adults in my house didn't drink at all, I had no experience observing adults who drank to excess. I knew Aunt Anna as one of my mother's four sisters. She was the one just older than my mom. I think there was significant sibling rivalry between her and my mom; my mom claimed that Anna was my grandfather's favorite. I also knew Anna as the mother of my cousin who had come to live with us when I was maybe four. I didn't like this particular cousin much; maybe I was jealous that her coming to live with us took attention away from me. She was a little older than I and lived with us for a period of weeks or maybe months before she disappeared from our lives. I was too little to wonder about where she had gone; I knew only that she didn't live with us any more, nor did she live with Aunt Anna.

What I didn't know was that my aunt and her husband (who had left the marriage and had left town before I was old enough to have any memories of him) had adopted my cousin because they couldn't have children of their own. Because of my aunt's drinking, a social services agency removed my cousin from my aunt's home. The removal was temporary at first, which is why my cousin came to live with us. The hope was that my aunt would be able to quit drinking and to care for my cousin. But that didn't happen; my cousin was removed permanently from Aunt Anna's custody.

But while this was going on, I was oblivious to the dynamics of alcoholism and social service agencies. It was only when I was older that my blinders came off. My mother would often take meals, baked goods and groceries to Aunt Anna, and I would go with my parents to deliver them. If I had seen my aunt inebriated during any of these visits, I wasn't aware of it and I never heard my parents talk about it. But one day we went to deliver some goodies my mom had made. My dad asked me to knock on the door. There was no answer. I knocked again. Still no answer. Finally, my dad knocked and called out to my aunt to open the door, that we had something for her. My blinders started coming off when she opened the door. I could smell alcohol (although I didn't know that's what it was at the time) as soon as the door cracked open. Aunt Anna looked awful. And she acted mean, yelling and cursing at us. She wouldn't open the door more than a few inches, but screamed at us to leave. We left the food on the porch and left. It was only then that my parents told me what I had seen and explained that Aunt Anna was an alcoholic.

Sometime when I was in my teens, Aunt Anna decided to quit drinking. And she did. She was by that time disabled by decades of alcohol abuse and its resulting medical problems. She had never worked outside the home, having married young at a time when married women seldom had careers of their own. My memories of her from that time, when she often visited our house, were of a soft-spoken, calm, loving redhead who always contributed pies and other goodies to family gatherings. I never had the courage to ask her about those years when she drank so heavily or the heartbreak of having a child taken away. I wish I had.

That encounter with Aunt Anna's alcoholism, a sickness that meant that sometimes I didn't even recognize her, removed my blinders to the effects of addiction on someone you love. Addiction took a toll on her marriages (only as an adult did I learn she'd been married three times), her daughter, and her health. In many ways, wearing those blinders was nicer than knowing the way addiction can affect someone. But only with the blinders off could I see addiction as a sickness to be addressed in ways little and big, personally and societally.

The next time someone knocked on Aunt Anna's door and didn't get an answer was when I was a young adult, recently married. That time the door remained closed not because Aunt Anna had been drinking, but because she had died in her sleep in the big easy chair with broad arms that allowed her to watch TV while she ate dinner on a TV tray. I was glad she died peacefully, but sorry that there weren't human arms to hold her in her last hours.

Do you have a story about a time when blinders were removed from your eyes to allow you to see something you hadn't before? If so, would you share that story during worship or in a newsletter? Sharing our stories allows us to better understand one another and those things that we may not see clearly. Please, let me know if you have a story to share, and we'll schedule it!

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie



WORSHIP TIDBITS

WHY PURPLE?

You may have noticed that there is a purple backdrop behind me during our Zoom worship, with a purple banner and gold cross over it. Were we able to meet in the sanctuary, you’d notice purple Lenten banners on the chancel and a purple cloth on the communion table. (If you watch closely, you’ll see photos of our Lenten banners and communion table during our worship music.) How is it that purple came to be associated with Lent?

The answer is twofold, or perhaps two sides of the same coin. Purple is the color of royalty. There is a particular shade of purple, in fact, known as royal purple. As a graduate of Kansas State University, I know the term “Royal Purple” well. K-State’s colors, like Highlands’, are purple and white; the university’s yearbook is called “The Royal Purple.” In antiquity, purple was a royal color because the dye was very expensive to make, so only wealthy royals could afford it. The lengthy process involved boiling sea snails for days to extract a particular chemical from them that made the purple dye. And so, purple is the color of kings, and recognizes Jesus as king.

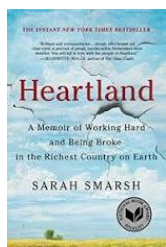
But purple can also symbolize pain and suffering (think bruises). We read in Mark 15:16-20:

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

When the soldiers put a purple cloak on Jesus to mock him, they are mocking the idea that someone so lowly could ever be seen as royalty. While he wears the purple cloak, they strike him, spit on him, and put a crown of thorns on him. It is the beginning of the suffering that will be inflicted on him as he will soon be crucified. So purple is also the color that recognizes Jesus’ suffering.

During the season of Lent, we recognize both sides of this purple coin: Jesus’ pain and suffering, which call us to repentance, and his true identity as royalty—the king of kings.

BOOK STUDY: One of our charges as a Matthew 25 church is to work toward eradicating systemic poverty. Of course, we can best work to end something when we better understand it. Please join Pastor Katie on Wednesday, Mar. 24, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the book *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh.



The book, a National Book Award Finalist, shows us “an uncompromising look at class, identity, and the particular perils of economic hardship in a country known for its excess” (from the book cover). The *Kirkus Review* calls Smarsh’s book “[A] powerful message of class bias . . . A potent social and economic message embedded within an affecting memoir.”

Smarsh, a journalist who has written for publications such as *The New York Times* and the *Guardian*, writes on socio-economic class, public policy, and politics. Her memoir takes us to Kansas farmland and poor neighborhoods in Wichita as we hear her tell her own story and the stories of her family. These stories help us better understand what it is like to be white, rural, and poor in the “breadbasket” of our country.

Our discussion will be via Zoom—same link as for worship. The book can be purchased new and used through online booksellers; cost is about \$11 through Amazon Prime.





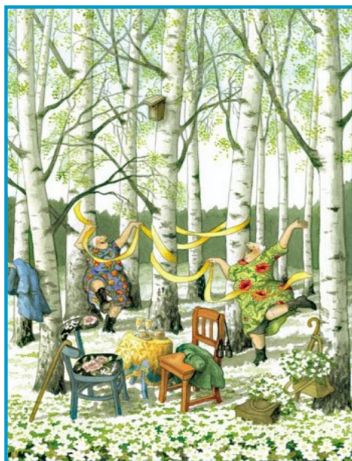
CLERK'S CORNER

You may know that the Session has undertaken, through the committees, to photograph and describe all our church property. This is no small task. I know because in 2017, Tom Trigg and I, as members of the Worship and Music Committee, went through the church and the Old Town Mission, and took pictures of all the items relating to Worship and Music. Our inventory contains 13 pages of photos and descriptions of hymnals, electronic screens, banners, pews, Communion ware, tables, music stands, the organ, pianos, bells, bell cases, chimes, chime cases, choir robes, stoles, candelabras, music, and file cabinets. These 13 pages represent hundreds of items used in worship in this church. The document provides a record of these items, should there be some catastrophe that destroyed all or part of them like a fire, flood, tornado or explosion; it also provides information to our insurers.

The Session has decided that such an inventory should be completed for the church property not included in the 2017 inventory. This includes office equipment, the equipment in the upstairs rooms and closets, the items in the East Wing, the furniture and carts in Perea Hall and the AV closet, and the items in the kitchen. We expect to complete this inventory in the next few months. The inventory will be put on flash drives and kept in the Church's safety deposit box.

Additionally, the Session has determined that the records of the Session and the committees –agendas, minutes and other pertinent documents – should be stored electronically and organized so they can be easily accessed. This will require the chairs to learn the new organizational scheme and become pretty savvy about electronic storage. WHEW! Also, as you may know, the Session records have been stored in large binder books. Every spring the Presbytery clerks of session meet to review the church records for the past year. It's a day-long affair where clerks bring their record books and session minutes to be exchanged and reviewed by other clerks of session. The results of these reviews are given to the clerks and to the Presbytery Office. This year there will be no meeting of clerks to review records, however the review will occur nonetheless. Clerks have been asked to exchange records with a clerk nearby or invite a former clerk to review the records. I have asked Rudy Laumbach, former FUPC clerk, to review the records this year and he has accepted. Stay tuned to see how well (or not) I've kept the records this year.

–Karyl Lyne, Clerk of Session



*Dear FUPC Family and Friends,
As some of you know, I have decided to retire from my position as Office Manager here at FUPC as of Friday, April 2nd.*

This is definitely bittersweet. Seems like just yesterday that Gene and I moved to Las Vegas and I took on this job. Thank you for all your support and friendship. And thanks for welcoming all my CCI puppies who grew up here in the church. (*Canine Companions for Independence) (And thanks to Judy Long who introduced me to CCI!)*

I will miss seeing you in my office and around the church. The Personnel Committee is well on the way to finding a replacement and I know they'll do a great job. Please welcome the new Office Manager as graciously as you welcomed me.

Gene and I are not moving but are hoping to do some traveling. Those of you who know me well, know that I would like to go "up north" and spend the summer (or as much of it as possible) at "the lake" in northeastern Minnesota – fishing, swimming, kayaking, and generally enjoying being "home". (I won't mention mosquitoes and black flies!!) I'll be starting to work on my Finnish and Slovenian family genealogy and doing lots of quilting and generally just enjoying being retired (again).

Blessings to you all and thank you.

Linda

2020 PLANNING COMMITTEE AND UNITY ORCHARD UPDATE

Seeds, Roots, Branches exemplifies just how First United Presbyterian Church is rooted in the community, branches out to include others and plants seeds that will bring about lasting change. The Unity Orchard project demonstrates all three of these concepts. Jan Beurskens' seed of an idea has taken root and now branches out to include many volunteers.

A survey of people who attended an introductory meeting in late December brought enthusiastic volunteers from across the community who wanted to pitch in and bring the Unity Orchard to fruition. Several interest groups formed. All of them are filled with imaginative people who see the value of the orchard, which comes under the umbrella of the Friends of the Gallinas River Park Project.

Getting the orchard from hopeful optimism to reality is a detailed process that requires working closely with the Friends of the Gallinas River Park team, West Las Vegas Schools Supt. Chris Gutierrez who has agreed to provide water to the site, and others. It is not a process that can be rushed. The good news is getting site plans and help from experts working with the Gallinas River Park, and WLV High School students creating artwork to be used for a banner identifying the site of the orchard. The hope is to get the signage installed as soon as possible.

There is a lot going on, with interest groups forming and plans being made. The photo with this article (thanks, Judy Long), shows three trees, two of which city workers will cut down because they're dead. The living tree on the far right will be trimmed. A ditch that runs along the fence line will be filled with stones dug up in the process of clearing a site down river. This work will be done by Unity Orchard volunteers led by Murl Baker, on work days to be scheduled as needed.



Interest groups include Fundraising, Maintenance, Construction, Education, Steering, Work Days, Weekly Patrol, Publicity, and Volunteer Coordination. If any of these interest groups appeal to you, please contact Jan Beurskens for more information.

As you might discern from the interest group titles, the Unity Orchard is a multi-level, long-term undertaking. FUPC is the catalyst; the community of Las Vegas will bring it to fruition. Many FUPC members are actively involved in leadership roles and inspiring others to step up and take this dream concept to reality.

–Joyce Litherland, 2020 Planning Committee

OUR “LITTLE FREE LIBRARY” UPDATE



I have volunteered to be the steward of our Little Free Library and want to share how exciting it is. I check the library twice a week and always find that books are taken, books are added, and the use is very high. Very few books don't move at all. At least once a week I supplement the library and need more books. If you have some to share you can leave them on my front porch (769 Diane Ave. blue house), or leave them at the church and let me know. Especially needed are children's books. They go so fast. If you have some that family outgrew or see some in a thrift store, please share. Have talked to one little boy who walked by with his mom and baby sister and he loves our LFL. I have joined an international email group of stewards and also ordered a stamp that says, “always a gift, never for sale” to stamp in each book. This is such an amazing community service and so much fun. Read on book lovers.

–Judy Long



LENTEN STUDY AND SUBSEQUENT CLASS SERIES FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH

Lenten Study: “Are We There yet? Pilgrimage in the Season of Lent”

This year’s Lenten study will continue on Zoom through March during the time usually devoted to the Sunday Morning Bible-based class for Adults and Youth - 9:15 to 10 a.m. The Zoom link is the same as for Sunday worship.

Each week’s chapter in this book is written by a different author or two, describing the penitential and purgative process of walking to/around/through some of the most beloved pilgrimage sites in the Christian tradition or of making an internal pilgrimage, a journey through difficult terrain of the soul.

The book is available new from the publisher, Forward Movement, for \$7 plus shipping and as a PDF download for printing or viewing at bodysuitmx.blogspot.com. Richard Lindeborg can have a copy shipped to your home.

Weekly reading assignments: (Note that sections for the second and fifth week of Lent are skipped)

March 7: pp. 29-46: (The First [full] Week of Lent) “Forgiveness and Freedom”

Meditations on historic lynching sites in the American South by Catherine Meeks, a retired Professor of Socio-Cultural Studies at Wesleyan College.

March 14: pp. 73-92: (The Third Week of Lent) “Insight and Inspiration”

Meditations on a pilgrimage beyond Galicia to Avila – the city of Teresa of Avila – by Teresa Pasquale Mateus, author of several books on trauma and recovery and Executive Director of The Mystic Soul Project.

March 21: pp. 93-112: (The Fourth week of Lent) “Healing and Hope”

“Meditations on the journey within” by Bo Cox, leader of therapeutic activities at a psychiatric hospital and Consultant to St. Alban’s School in Washington, DC.

March 28: pp. 133-150: (Holy Week [a week early])“Reconciliation, Redemption and Returning Home”

Meditations on the Appalachian Trail by Frank and Victoria Logue, authors and leaders of spiritual retreats. Frank is Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, and Victoria is a tertiary in the Third Order of St. Francis.

There will be no session on Easter Sunday, April 4

• **New Class Beginning April 11: “Virus as a Summons to Faith” by Walter Brueggemann**

After Easter, the Sunday morning Bible-based class for Adults and youth will begin discussion of the book *Virus as a Summons to Faith* Reflections in a time of Loss, Grief and Uncertainty by Walter Brueggemann.

As one reader comments, “Through scriptural interpretation and prayer, Dr. Brueggemann’s treatment of the current situation of global pandemic and environmental destruction gives us freedom to groan in our fear and suffering, to admit to our human culpability, to strive to let go of the past in order to live more compassionately in the present, and to hope in the everlasting and creative love of God.”

Brueggemann, the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament Emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary, is a leading interpreter of the Old Testament and author of numerous books, including *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*, and *Reverberations of Faith: A Theological Handbook of Old Testament Themes*.

The book is available from Amazon.com in paperback for \$14 new (with a few used copies for less), and on Kindle for \$9.99. Other online vendors, such as Alibris.com and AbeBooks.com, have a few new and used copies for competitive prices. Paper Trail may be able to order copies, and Richard Lindeborg can order a new copy from Amazon Prime (shipping free).

Classes are from 9:15 to 10 a.m., Sunday Mornings using the same Zoom link for Sunday worship.

- The reading assignment for the April 11 session is pp. vii – 22 “Forward,” ”Preface” and Chapter 1: “Reaping the Whirlwind – Leviticus, Exodus, Job.”



ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Last year Mission and Peace Making offered the Angel Tree program as one of our outreach projects. The response was heartwarming, but since it was new we had only asked for six children and could not fulfil the demand. This year we want to check with the congregation first to see how many would like to give an Angel Tree gift.

The Angel Tree project is part of the Prison Fellowship program which operates within prisons and a program for released prisoners. It is founded on the premise of human dignity and redemption and they engage prisoners with a targeted curriculum, compassionate coaches and a restorative community. It is always the prisoners' choice to embark on a one year journey to develop and practice biblically based values of affirmation, productivity, responsibility, restoration and integrity. The testimony of many prisoners is very promising. Those prisoners who are parents and involved with Prison Fellowship are asked if they would like their children to receive Christmas gifts from other caring people but in their parent's name.

It is so hard to break the prison cycle. If a parent goes to prison the chances are great that their child also will go to prison. After being released from prison an individual has the lifetime prospect of earning only a fraction of what a non-prisoner would earn. It takes a village to rear a child and if a child knows someone else cares it can make a huge impact. If givers choose, they may establish a relationship with the child throughout the year or longer.

A church or organization says how many children they want to accept from the Angel Tree Project. Last year due to COVID 19 there were two ways to give gifts and churches could choose one or the other. Virtually individual givers signed up on line and donated money. Churches also had to choose to give either \$25 or \$45 gifts. If the church chooses virtual, everyone gives the same amount to a child.

The other way is in person and Angel Tree gathers information from the parent or child care giver for age, gender, gift ideas, sizes, etc. This information is sent to the church representative and, as much as possible, church members may choose their child. It is suggested that gifts include a clothing item and a toy. Each giver wraps the gifts and volunteers deliver them. Prison Fellowship asks for donations so they can give each child a Bible. These Bibles are colorful and very appropriate.

If we sign up early we have a good chance of getting children from this area. So, we are soliciting three sets of information:

How many are interested in participating in the Angel Tree Program?

Would you like virtual or in person?

If virtual, how much would you want to spend? \$25 or \$45?

Please contact Pat Halverson at 505-239-4263 or ckpat@mac.com by **April 1, 2021**, with your ideas.



PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY 2020 REPORT

We have had no new burials during 2020.

Anyone who is considering burial for themselves or others should review the Cemetery Policies and Procedures as approved by the Session in 2019. A copy is kept in the Church Office. Should you wish to reserve a specific plot, this can be done. Should you wish to view the available plots, a map is kept in the church office. Should you wish assistance in locating a plot, contact Van Swan.

Many of the graves have been identified. However, there are graves that are not identified. The grave markers have been lost or have become illegible over time. The church wants to preserve the history of those who have gone before us. The history of the church in Las Vegas is an important part of our heritage. Anyone who has information regarding these unknown graves is encouraged to contact Van Swan or Bruce Wertz.

Periodically, maintenance is performed and sometimes work days are scheduled. You are encouraged to volunteer to help maintain the grounds, the landscaping, and the grave markers. Any questions regarding the cemetery can be directed to Van Swan.



OLD TOWN MISSION COMMUNITY CENTER: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Well, it's been quite a year, hasn't it? As I write this it has been almost exactly a year since I first started wondering if I would actually have to wear a mask as I moved around town. Who would have thought back then that the level of worldwide suffering and change would have been this severe?

We all know how 2020 changed the way we worship together. But everything else changed, too. At the Old Town Mission Community Center our burgeoning programs for the community were cut short just as we were moving into the second half of the school year. Instead our historic building has been sitting empty and we endured a crippling theft of equipment we had slowly gathered to support our efforts.

As we started thinking about what we could do while we waited for some degree of normalcy to return, we realized this down time was perfectly suited for getting some maintenance and improvements done on the building. I mentioned the addition of fiberglass insulation above the ceiling in the old sanctuary in an earlier edition of this newsletter. We now have new heating units in place in that room as well as the middle room. They are both gas fired and properly sized for the space. They still make a fair amount of noise when the fan is blowing but we hope that the insulation and the increase in BTUs will reduce the running time and make it easier to hear in a meeting.

Each one of these is controlled by a smart thermostat. You can't imagine what an improvement it is to be able to raise the temperature in either room two hours before an 8 a.m. meeting without having to drive over to the Center to do it. We can also monitor the temperature at any time to be certain it is properly set. For instance, when our gas was recently shut off we would have been able to know there was a problem very quickly. Or that the occupants of the day remembered to turn the heat back down to the "away" setting of 55 degrees when they left.

All of these tasks mentioned above were arranged and accomplished by our Buildings and Grounds Committee. They are very dedicated to their work and we literally could not have done this without them. Between the Joint Operating Team of the Old Town Mission and the loyal members of Buildings and Grounds we are now putting together plans to improve the entrance on the West side of the building. We will use the money from our \$10,000 donation received at the end of 2018 to replace the metal roof above the kitchen, to add a porch roof above the door, to remove the old broken concrete outside the door and replace it with a 4 foot wide sidewalk and gravel pad, and to improve the storm-water drainage off the parking lot. When this is done it will be much more obvious that this is the main entrance and it will be more accessible for wheelchairs.

In the meantime, we are researching replacing the stolen electronics using the money donated by our community. All together we received over \$4100, as well as a lightly used projector. We are investigating a more sophisticated security monitoring system as well as a lockable metal cage in which to store electronics when not being used. If anyone knows anything about security system design or knows someone who does we would love to hear from you. Just give me a call at 505-426-5821.

With all of these improvements we will be ready to resume use of the building when we get the "all clear" from the State Health Department. We can't wait to get things going again!

-Tom Trigg, JOT

UNITY ORCHARD CELEBRATION

Log in to the Unity Orchard Zoom Celebration on Sunday, March 21, from 3 – 4 p.m. You are invited to share a poem, personal story, or favorite recipe with other attendees. Using apples, prepare something to eat and enjoy it during our Zoom celebration. In addition to your contributions, this celebration, will have music and a fun activity for everyone. Hosted by Community Life. Hope to see you and your family!

Join by going to our (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>.

-Pam Abreu, Community Life



We enter Holy Week on Palm Sunday, Mar. 28. On the afternoon of Saturday, Mar. 27, from 3 – 4 p.m., please drive by the church to receive palms and a blessing. You can drive by from either the west or the east; we'll have someone to offer a blessing and to hand out palms on each side of Douglas. If you are unable to drive by and would like to have palms, please let the church office know.

- Palm Sunday, March 28 – Have your palms available to wave during our Zoom worship!
- Good Friday, April 2 – Evening service, time TBA. Join us to remember the institution of communion at the last supper and to journey with Jesus as he is arrested, sentenced, crucified, and buried. Please bring communion elements to the service with you.
- Last year's Good Friday Tenebrae Service video will also be available for you to view during Holy Week; you'll find the link on the church website: lvpresbyterian.org
- Easter Sunday, April 4 – Join us on Zoom to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the promise of new and eternal life!

Lenten Theme: Looking Beyond the Blinders

from the Worship and Music Committee



Blinders keep a horse focused on what's in front, as in a horse race, and from being distracted or spooked by what's on either side, as in a driving horse on a busy street. They can be very useful, even critically important, for horses. Blinders are not so useful for you and me, and yet we all have them.

Our Lenten theme, *Looking Beyond the Blinders*, challenges us to look at our own blinders and how they are keeping us from seeing what needs to be addressed in our lives and in our society, and how they are keeping our view too narrowly focused. We challenge ourselves to see our world, and God's work in it, in new ways without the blinders each of us wears.

Pastor Katie's sermons each week give us the opportunity to see familiar stories from Luke in new and deeper ways, using encounters with Jesus to help remove the blinders and see more fully as Jesus does. Please take full advantage of our worship to do some "blinder work" this Lent.

We also will hear from three guest speakers about specific issues and situations that we all want to see more fully. Let's open our ears, take our blinders off and have a robust discussion!

Please use our normal Zoom link, either from this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081> or by going to our website lvpresbyterian.org and pressing the "Join us live on Zoom" button on the home page. Mark your calendars and tell your friends!

Sunday, Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. – Focus on *indigenous peoples* with speaker Nelson Capitan from the Laguna Pueblo

Sunday, Mar. 7 at 3 p.m. – Focus on reaching out to *immigrants* with speaker Guillermo Yela from Camino de Vida Church in Albuquerque

Sunday, Mar. 28 at 3 p.m. – Focus on *poverty and local needs* with speaker George Lyon, Director of Samaritan House.



*The Spirit whispers,
the ancestors agree.
You are star born
and God loved;
The universe awaits
your gifts.*

In honor of Black History month, the Deacons would like to share a poem written by [Barbara A. Holmes](#), a black theologian and member of the CAC Living School:



ONLINE GIVING REMINDER

If you are using our online giving process, please check the “end date” of your automatic payments. 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](#) to the church office requesting that your name/email be added. The bulletin is emailed on Thursday or Friday for the service along with a message from Pastor Katie.



Let's Get Together!

WEEKLY SOCIAL GATHERINGS VIA ZOOM

Let's Get Together!

Remember that we have social gatherings via Zoom each week:

Sunday morning fellowship following worship. Hang around after the postlude and spend some time chatting with folks!

Coffee with Katie, Tuesday mornings at 9:00. We'll chat over coffee (I prefer tea) and breakfast if you'd like. It's an opportunity to visit together with no agenda, just getting to know each other better.



TO JOIN ANY FUPC EVENT VIA 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.

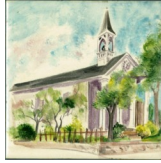
If you don't have a computer but want **to join by phone, call 312-626-7699** and enter the meeting ID number (573-920-0081) when prompted. Please note this is a Chicago number, so if your phone plan does not have unlimited calls, you may incur long-distance charges.

For committee meetings and other non-public meetings, you'll receive a link from your committee chair.

First United Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2021

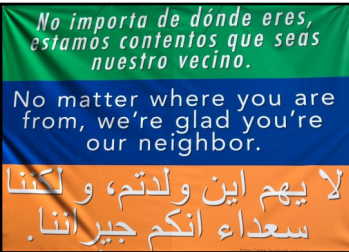
1000 Douglas Avenue
 PO Box 37
 Las Vegas NM 87701
 505-425-7763



Website: www.lvpresbyterian.org
 Facebook: Las Vegas First United Presbyterian (NM)
 Email: fupc.nm@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. - Bible Based Study via Zoom
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship via Zoom
 Fellowship Hour following the worship service on Zoom



Our Daily Devotionals

Our weekday devotionals offer an opportunity to hear words that might resonate on a spiritual level, raise questions to be pondered, or remind us that God’s love is steadfast. You can find our devotionals on the FUPC Facebook page or by clicking on the “devotionals” link under “Latest News” on our website at lvpresbyterian.org

Thank you to those who have committed to providing weekly devotionals:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday – Pastor Katie | Tuesday – Beth Urech |
| Wednesday – Rod Billingsley | Thursday – Pat Halverson |
| Friday – Denice Spicer | |



Samaritan House Food Donations

MARCH

Soup - Any kind
 Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 2nd | Jan Beurskens |
| | Bob Pearson |
| 5 th | Bruce Wertz |
| 6 th | John Arnold |
| 14 th | Pat Halverson |
| 16 th | Karyl Lyne |
| 27 th | Jackson Awuzing |
| | Jim Croto |