

HELLO FUPC FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

In this mailing you'll find the bulletin for Sunday's worship service. Join us Sunday at 10:30 in the sanctuary, via zoom by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081>, or 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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

Tuesday, December 21

9:00 a.m. – Coffee with Katie via Zoom

Wednesday, December 22

Newsletter deadline

Friday, December 24

5:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Lessons and Responses

Sunday, December 26

10:30 a.m. – Special Christmas Worship



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



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

December 15, 2021

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

We gather this coming Sunday for the fourth Sunday of Advent—less than a week before Christmas Day! It's a little hard to believe, here in northern New Mexico, that Christmas is so close, given temperatures in the 60s as I write this. I'm longing to wear turtlenecks and sweaters, especially the Christmas-y ones with snowmen on them. But somehow it seems wrong to expose those fabric snowmen to the warm winds of December 2021! But I'll be doing just that because I have to uphold my final-Sunday-of-Advent-Christmas-jumper tradition this weekend! ☺

As we come together this week, we move from a series of Hebrew Bible readings that began our Narrative Lectionary year in September into the Gospel of John. Sunday we will look at part of the Johannine Prologue—the first 18 verses of this gospel. Over the next few months, we will explore Jesus' life as depicted in John's gospel. It is a fascinating book, much different from the other gospels, as you have probably noticed. Indeed, scholar Bart Ehrman notes:

Nowhere in the other Gospels is Jesus said to be the Word of God, the creator of the universe, the equal of God, or the one sent from heaven and soon to return. Nowhere else does Jesus claim that to see him is to see the Father, that to hear him is to hear the Father, and that to reject him is to reject the Father.

Our focus on John in the coming weeks promises to stimulate our thinking about this person whose birth in Bethlehem we'll be celebrating shortly.

I know that many of you will be traveling over Christmas week but plan to be with us on Zoom for Christmas Eve worship. I hope that those of you who are not traveling will join us in the sanctuary or on Zoom to celebrate Jesus' birth—the incarnation of God's love, grace, and truth.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie



Assisting in Worship This Week

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer	Worship Leader – Christina Litherland
Director of Music - Karyl Lyne	Accompanist – Em Krall
Office Manager – Crystal Western Ford	Tech Crew – D.R. Palmer, Denice Spicer, Tom Trigg
Head Usher – Kevin Johnson	Sanctuary Design – Charlotte Wootton



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701
 December 19, 2021 10:30 a.m.

BE FILLED AND SPRING FORTH



MEDITATION — *Every time we open our mouths and speak, we are either saying let there be light or let there be darkness.* —Glennon Doyle

WE GATHER TOGETHER

WELCOME Rev. Katie Palmer

PRELUDE Em Krall

PASSING OF THE PEACE Christina Litherland

*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** (adapted from Psalm 130:5-8)

One: In Advent, we come from a world of scarcity **All: into a world of abundance.**
 One: We come from a world of anxiety **All: into a world of God's calm comfort.**
 One: We come from a world of weariness **All: into a world awake with wonder.**
 One: And so, we wait for the Lord **All: and in God's word we hope.**
 One: Our very souls wait for the Lord **All: more than those who watch for the morning.**
 One: For with God there is steadfast love **All: and with God there is great power to redeem.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (GTG #107)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR¹

We watch and wait for Christ's coming!
 We light candles of hope, peace, joy and love, remembering God's promises with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.
 We light this candle for peace.
 We light this candle in joy.
 We light this candle with love.

We remember these words from the psalmist: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
 with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love,
 you are love, and those who abide in love abide in you.
 Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world.

God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-13

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON *So Much Love* Rev. Katie Palmer

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

WITH THANKS FOR GENEROUS GIVING *Doxology*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OPPORTUNITIES

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN *He Came Down* (GTG #137—love, light, peace, joy, hope)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

¹Adapted from a Presbyterian Mission Agency Advent litany by Teresa Lockhart Eisenlohr

OPPORTUNITIES

If you are making a **Reverse Advent Calendar Box** for Samaritan House, please complete it and deliver it to Samaritan House (501 7th Street) Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday this week between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. If you need help with delivery, contact D.R. Palmer (303-775-7259).

The PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering provides support for retired church workers, who may be facing health issues or other expenses. It also provides support for racial-ethnic education at Menaul School and Pan Am University in Kingsville, TX. Gifts can be given online, or checks to FUPC with Christmas Joy Offering in the memo line can be mailed to P.O. Box 37, LVNM. Thank you for your gracious generosity.
--Mission and Peacemaking Committee

There will be no Sunday Morning Class for Adults and Youth on December 26 or January 2. On Sunday, January 9, the class will begin its discussion of the book *Strength for the Journey: A Pilgrimage of Faith in Community* (1st edition 2002) by Diana Butler Bass. This series will run through Feb. 27, from 9 to 10 a.m. on Zoom at the same link as the weekly worship service. The book is available used online for \$5-\$10 including shipping, or Richard Lindeborg can order you a copy delivered to you.

Samaritan House Food Donations – December – Canned meats (tuna, chicken, stew). Coffee and Tea are always appreciated. Please drop your donations off at Samaritan House, 501 7th Street.

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 Nina and Larry Johns, Bryan Johnson and Kevin Johnson as well as Aztec Presbyterian Church, Aztec, NM (1889).

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

November 28 1st Sunday of Advent
December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent
December 12 3rd Sunday of Advent
December 12 Blue Christmas worship at 5:00 p.m.
December 19 4th Sunday of Advent
December 24 Christmas Eve Worship at 5:30 p.m.
December 26 1st Sunday after Christmas - *Join us for this worship filled with stories and song from guest presenters*
January 2 2nd Sunday after Christmas - *“Come and See” where Christ is staying*

December Elder of the Month –Carol Linder – 505-429-2139
December Deacon of the Month – Rosalie Lopez –505-429-6420
Church Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. – Noon
fupc.nm@gmail.com 505-425-7763 www.lvpresbyterian.org

Rev Katie Palmer – Office: 425-7763 Cell: 303-775-7356 pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com

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