



Sharing the Love of Christ

First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

PO Box 37

1000 Douglas Avenue

Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

OCTOBER 2022

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

On Saturday, Sept. 24, about 31 members of our church family gathered for a congregational retreat. We had lots of fun with a scavenger hunt around our church facility. It had been since before COVID that many of us had spent so much time in the building. Some of our folks had never ventured upstairs; many had not yet seen some of the recent changes to the East Wing. And so, the scavenger hunt sent people looking for things in all of our space—how many white boards are there in the building? How many bathrooms do we have? Where can you find information from the New Mexico Job Safety and Health poster? Where can you go to relax and work on a puzzle? And, of course, the big question: how can we use all our space to serve our community and our church family?

We also spent some time thinking about what church means to us by discussing a variety of church names (some real, some made up) and by drawing ads for what people find here in our church community. For instance, if you saw a church called “Discovery Community Church,” what would you expect that church to be like? We quickly discovered that words and names are powerful and conjure different images for different people. No wonder so many churches stick to the basics, like First United Presbyterian! It’s noteworthy that the things most mentioned by various groups was that our church family is about growth and warmth and building community. The “Seeds. Roots. Branches.” logo we adopted for our 150th anniversary was often mentioned as accurately representing who we are.

We celebrated the many ways in which we are a vibrant church. But we also talked truthfully about the challenges we face. Like so many congregations in mainline Christian denominations, we are aging. And as our congregation ages, it inevitably gets smaller as people pass on to life eternal. We live in a time and in a culture where church is less relevant to people, and so it is hard to grow a bigger congregation, particularly in small towns that are not growing. A consequence of a smaller congregation is, of course, a smaller budget. Our finances are in good shape but giving in our congregation is down significantly over the last few months. We can’t yet say whether that’s an aberration or a trend, but we will be looking at our finances very closely as we prepare next year’s budget. Obviously, we need everyone’s commitment to give as generously as they are able!

The culmination of the day was some work on concrete ideas for use of our space that are in keeping with our goals to grow and share our faith, to seek justice, and to build community. Our East Wing now has a welcoming gathering space; how can we publicize it? How might we reconceptualize our upstairs space, which goes unused most of the time, into a space that meets a community need and/or brings in rent income to help support our missions? How might we use the Sanctuary for music events and feature one of the premier pianos in the city? How might we use Perea Hall for an Arts venue?

The retreat participants produced a lot of ideas, which are posted in Perea Hall. We’ll leave them where they can be seen for a couple of weeks; please take a minute to look at them and think about them. And feel free to share your other ideas, and to get excited about possibilities!

With thanks for all of you,

Pastor Katie

CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT UPDATE



Following the Congregational Retreat on Sept. 24, in which the Renewal Grant Task Force members were involved, we are taking a breath and then will continue our work on getting a calendar in place for next summer’s time of congregational renewal! Stay tuned for more information!



WORSHIP TIDBITS

Oct. 2 is World Communion Sunday. According to the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC (USA), “The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to ‘discern the body’ when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration... Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual [Peace and Global Witness Offering](#) as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.” We will hear from Carol Litherland, Chair of our Mission and Peacemaking Committee, about this offering and how we can contribute.

We will also wrap up our “Responding to God’s Call” theme on Oct. 2. We’ve had some fun with that theme as we’ve received, during worship, a phone call, a certified letter, an email, and a singing telegram from God! Wouldn’t it be nice if God always called us in such straightforward ways! More often than not, we have to be very attentive to hear God’s call amid the background noise of our everyday lives!

In mid-October, we will look at the ways in which we can serve God as we continue to look at some powerful Scriptures from the Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament).

FEEDBACK FOR PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

We need your help. Every year we do annual visits with our paid staff to talk about how things are going, what’s working, what’s not working, changes needed. etc. In November we have the annual visit with Katie, our pastor and I’d like to get feedback from as many people as possible. About her pastoral care, worship, sermons, leadership, anything else you might wish to share. This can be anonymous if you wish. We all appreciate Katie, her gifts and energy for this congregation and church. All feedback is welcome and important. You can email to me (longfam@newmexico.com), text, call (505-429-0379) or drop on my front porch (769 Diane Ave). All the responses will be shared with the Personnel committee in a compiled format with names removed. Thanks so much for helping us in our job. Judy Long

RINGERS and SINGERS WANTED



After a 2+ year COVID hiatus, FUPC will once again resound with the sounds of vocal and bell music.

The Rainbow Ringers (FUPC’s Bell Choir) is beginning rehearsals again on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. If you’ve always wanted to give bells a try, now would be a great time. It helps if you read music, have been in a vocal choir or took piano lessons as a young person. The bells will play for worship on Oct. 16 and Nov. 13. Contact Karyl Lyne @ karyloz505@gmail.com or call 505-718-6475 to talk it over and get more information.

The FUPC Vocal Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 7 pm, under the direction of Jordan Jones, who has played piano for a number of our worship services. Jordan will prepare the choir to sing during the Advent Season. The choir will sing for worship on Nov. 7, Dec. 4, 18 and Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Contact Karyl Lyne @ karyloz505@gmail.com or call 505-718-6475 for more information.



CLERK'S CORNER

I'm delighted to let you know that the Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) served about 277 households on September 9 with food from The Food Depot in Santa Fe. That's the good news. The bad news is that we had to send 18 cars away without food. Alas!!! Quick to respond, the wonderful Food Depot will be sending more food for the Rodriguez Park distribution on October 14, so we can serve all who come. Thanks to the great group of volunteers who continue to show up to greet our clients, guide them through the line in their cars safely, load anywhere from 7 - 10 items into each car with efficiency and smiles for all! We're entering a new phase for the MFP with the introduction of client's choice in what items they receive at the MFP. Food Depot Staff will be on hand on October 14 with questionnaires for our clients to learn about their preferences/choices for food items. We just keep growing and developing!

I'm also delighted to let you know that the FUPC Bell Choir—The Rainbow Ringers—resumed rehearsals on Wednesday, 9-21-22 at 5:30 pm in Perea Hall. After a 2 1/2 year hiatus in playing, we'll pick up those gorgeous brass instruments and make a joyful noise (if not completely true to the notes on the page of music). I don't know about the other bell players, but I'm going to have to remind myself how to read bell music and what those symbols mean! Fortunately, we have time and each other on our side. We hope to play for the congregation in late October the first time! If anyone would like to explore playing in the bell choir, please let me know. We'd love to have more players! It helps if you read music, but it's not required. Come join us!

The vocal choir will resume rehearsals to prepare vocal choir music for the Advent Season soon. Jordan Jones will be leading that effort and will be in touch with singers about rehearsal and performance schedules.

Return to 'normalcy'? I don't know what that means, but it will be nice to once again gather to raise our voices and our instruments to the Lord!

Please join us.

Karyl Lyne,
Clerk of Session and Director of Music



2022-2023 Elders left to right, seated: Karyl Lyne, D.R. Palmer, and Judy Long; standing Corky Halverson, Carol Linder, and Carol Litherland. Not pictured, Tom Trigg.

OCTOBER 2022

CROP Walks in the works

Among crop walks being planned, see the poster about the Pendaries walk on Oct. 23, and there is also an 'agency walk' on Saturday, Oct. 29. The walk starts at 10 a.m., at Samaritan House, goes up the street to the Las Vegas Community Kitchen at 1st United Methodist Church, and ends at Comedor de San Pascual at OLOS Parish Hall with a treat of prune pie, thanks to Jeannette Yara. All are invited to join in this walk. Giving is at www.crophungerwalk.org/lasvegasnm.



PENDARIES VILLAGE

3rd Annual CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, Oct. 23, 3:00 p.m.

We walk to raise funds to fight hunger at home and around the world, joining with others in the Las Vegas area.

Our local soup kitchens and food pantries face increasing demands, while around the world—

- over half of Pakistan's agricultural land is flooded;
- war and famine ravage Ethiopia and Yemen;
- drought brings starvation to millions in Somalia

Of funds raised in Pendaries and Las Vegas, 25% will support local services to those who are food insecure:

75% will support Church World Service programs throughout the world

Plan to join us as we walk in solidarity with those who must walk to gather food, water, and fuel.

Details of our walk and how to give will follow.
Krista Perkins, Carrol and Bob Pearson



Dear Cafe Justo supporter,

We send you warm greetings from the states of Chiapas and Sonora, Mexico.

Over the past twenty years, the Café Justo Cooperative has produced both excellent coffee and good relationships with each of you. Many of you have traveled to Chiapas to meet the growers and learn about coffee production. Each of you lived in our homes, shared food and fellowship, and formed lasting memories. We have been honored by your presence with us.

Since 2006, the price of a pound of Café Justo has remained the same. Over the past four years we have been able to break even but with increased costs, Café Justo cannot be sustained. We made the very difficult decision to raise our prices starting September 16th 2022:

Regular coffee	increase of \$1/lb
Decaf and blended coffee	increase of \$2/lb

Have you heard the term “shrinkflation?” It refers to the current trend to maintain the cost of a product by reducing the amount in the container. Café Justo is not going to “shrink” you one-pound amount of coffee, however, we have had to consider increasing the cost to you. This has been a difficult process.

Our pledge since the beginning is to be “Justos/Fair” with each one of our Farmers, Employees, and Customers, so these prices will allow us to continue to do exactly that, and cultivating relationships across borders.

Thank you so much for these 20 years of partnership and keeping families together and thriving.

Paz y Justicia!

Café Justo S.P de R.L.
ATTE



OCTOBERFIESTA

Saturday • Oct. 8 • 11:30 a.m. • Stella's on Bridge Street

**You are
invited**

Community Life and the Deacons
invite you to attend a fun-filled
luncheon & get together celebrating
the spirit of community.

Reserve your spot today.
Email fsvandermeer@gmail.com
or call 505 617-0839

**Dutch
Treat**

Saturday • Oct. 8 • 11:30 a.m. • Stella's on Bridge Street



2022-2023 Deacons left to right, seated: Bonnie Trujillo, Sharon Vander Meer, and Renee Soderlund; standing, Murl Baker, Nina Marquez Johns, and Juli Salman.



SUNDAY MORNING CLASS: THE OLD AND THE NEW (TESTAMENTS)

From now until Advent, the Sunday morning class for adults and youth is discussing books from the Old and New Testaments.

Song Of Songs

Finishing September and all through October the class will continue discussing the book *Song of Songs: A Biblical–Theological, Allegorical, Christological Interpretation* by James M. Hamilton, Jr.

Hamilton is a professor of Biblical theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, and has been preaching pastor or senior pastor at various churches. He has written numerous books including *God’s Glory in Salvation through Judgment*, a popular-level commentary on *Revelation*, and a commentary on *Ezra-Nehemiah*.

A reader writes, “This commentary not only added to my head knowledge of the Song of Songs, it also had an impact upon my heart by stirring up my affections by demonstrating how the Song of Songs is applicable for married couples as well as singles today. It was refreshing to read a commentary on an Old Testament book in a way that speaks to one’s head, heart and hands.”

Hamilton’s book is available in paperback for as little as \$7.39 from Amazon, \$7.43 from Alibris, and \$8.81 from AbeBooks. New copies are available from Amazon or the publisher (Christian Focus Publications) for \$14.99 (all prices plus shipping). Richard Lindeborg can order copy for you from Amazon and have it delivered to your home with free shipping.

The classes are from 9 to 10 a.m. in hybrid mode: Via Zoom on the same link as the worship service and in person in the church’s teleconference center on the second floor of the 1000 Douglas Ave. building. Enter through the East Wing door and follow the signs through Perea Hall to the stairs.

Reading assignments are:

Sept. 25, Ch. 4: Like Columns of Smoke from the Wilderness (pp. 67-79); SoS Ch. 3

Oct. 2, Ch. 5: The Consummation of the Covenant (pp. 81-96); SoS Ch. 4

Oct. 9, Ch. 6: Praising the Rejected One (pp. 97-110); SoS Ch. 5

Oct 16, Ch 7: Are the Vines in Bloom? (pp. 111-123); SoS Ch. 6

Oct. 23, Ch 8: Reconciliation (pp. 125-134); SoS Ch. 7

Oct. 30, Ch. 9: The Meaning and Application of the Song (pp. 135-145); SoS Ch. 8

*SoS = Bible *Song of Songs*

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

In November, the class will take on all four gospels at the same time. The discussion will be based on the book *Matthew Mark Luke & John: Side by Side Parallel Gospels in Harmony*, edited by David A. Reed. The translation used in this book is the World English Bible, a public domain translation.

From the back cover: “A Disciple in the Garden of Gethsemane cuts off the ear of the high priest’s servant according to all four Gospels. But only John tells us the servant’s name, and that it was Peter who wielded the sword. And only Luke tells us that Jesus healed the wound. This book allows you to see all of this at a glance.

“Reed served for a decade as a contributing editor of Dr. Walter Martin’s *Christian Research Journal* and has taught at Spurgeon’s annual School of Theology at London’s Metropolitan Tabernacle. He has authored twenty books on Bible topics. Reed is pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts.”

A reader writes, "I love the simplicity of this book. All the gospels in chronological order, side by side. I'm trying to build a good mental model of the gospels--where the stories and parables and miracles all are in relation to each other. This has helped immensely."

The book is available new in paperback from Amazon for \$7.95 and used for as little as \$4.71, both prices plus shipping. It is more expensive and scarce from AbeBooks and Alibris. Richard Lindeborg can order a copy for you from Amazon and have it delivered to your home with free shipping.

The classes are from 9 to 10 a.m. in hybrid mode: Via Zoom on the same link as the worship service and in person in the church's teleconference center on the second floor of the 1000 Douglas Ave. building. Enter through the East Wing door and follow the signs through Perea Hall to the stairs.

Reading Assignments are

November 6, pp 4-89

November 13, pp. 90-175

November 20, pp. 176-260*

*A lot of white space here: the four gospels in a pew bible would run only 169 pages.

NEWS FROM TTT COMMITTEE



Have a question about giving?

With so many options to give, you may be confused about how best to give to the church and how we spend your money. In the September 2022 newsletter, I provided a list of ways your giving helps us to grow and share our faith, seek justice, and build community. While our giving definitely supports these efforts, a review of our operating budget reveals that a significant portion of our money goes to general operating expenses and maintaining our physical plant.

Supporting our pastor is critical to directly fulfilling our mission, but our other personnel and operating expenses like utilities are just as critical.

As we hear each Sunday morning, members and friends are able to contribute to the church on a schedule and using a method that works best for them: giving weekly, monthly, or annually and donating online, by sending a check to the church office, or by putting money in the offering plate at the back of the church on Sunday mornings. Gifts can be designated or undesignated. We appreciate your continued generosity and understand that one's ability to give is dependent on many outside factors that may be out of your control.

We encourage you to consider a planned gift in the form of a bequest after you are no longer living. Designating money to the church in your will or making the church a beneficiary on an investment or retirement account will ensure that FUPC is around for future generations living in the Las Vegas community. We are currently relying on previous and anticipated bequests and memorials to balance our budget and meet our expenses. Previous bequests and designated giving have also allowed us to establish a commercial kitchen that is used weekly by the Samaritan House cooking team, award Mustard Seed grants to organizations with special projects that benefit primarily our local community, purchase technology that allows us to provide a quality hybrid worship experience to those in the sanctuary and those joining on Zoom, stucco the church, landscape the grounds, and create an amazing community center at the Old Town Mission church on the west side.

If you have questions about annual or bequest/memorial giving, please reach out to me as the chair of the Time Talent, and Treasure committee.

Carol Linder, carollinder@msn.com, 505 429-2139



A WORD ABOUT FIRE RECOVERY

With the help of FEMA, a joint San Miguel/Mora Counties Long-Term Recovery Group has been formed. The group has established a board of directors, which is at work putting together committees. These committees will address needs assessment, unmet needs, behavioral health, resources, spiritual/faith-based needs, public relations/communications, and construction. Should you be interested in serving on one of these committees, let Pastor Katie or Carol Linder know so that they can connect you to the group.

Upcoming Deadlines*



*This information updated as of September 12, 2022. Deadlines subject to change pending additional Federal extensions and new deadlines.

Get Help Now!

These contacts are the best way to receive assistance through active programs and resources.

Register for FEMA's Individual Assistance by October 7th.

FEMA is still accepting applications for individuals to receive assistance. Call 1-800-621-3362.

Call Crisis Cleanup for assistance at (575) 446-4767.

Crisis Cleanup can connect you to local volunteer groups for assistance with damage to your property.

Connect to the Mora and San Miguel Long-Term Recovery Group.

This locally driven organization is coordinating recovery assistance. Call or text (505) 398-3634.

Additional information regarding disaster recovery resources is available online at <https://www.nmdhsem.org/2022-wildfires/>

Planning for Your Long-Term Recovery

September 2022

Know what funding is available, when to apply, and what to be ready for.

Prepared for impacted households in Mora and San Miguel Counties.


There are resources available to support your recovery. Here are the steps to focus on.

-  **Register for FEMA Individual Assistance.** FEMA-IA support can jumpstart your access to a range of financial and temporary housing resources.
-  **Apply for USDA Assistance.** Your local offices may be able to provide loans and grants to address fence repair, reseeding, septic systems, wells, and other damage.
-  **Call Crisis Cleanup.** If you have unmet needs, you can receive assistance from local volunteer groups which provide support to individuals registered with Crisis Cleanup.
-  **Connect to the local Long-Term Recovery Group.** They will help you stay aware of new programs and funding opportunities.

Contact information is available on the inside and back of this pamphlet.

Federal Resources to Support Your Recovery

FEMA Individual Assistance

 1-800-621-3362

By registering for FEMA's Individual Assistance program, ***you may be eligible for multiple programs***, including immediate sheltering and direct temporary housing so that you have a place to stay while you recover from the wildfire.

You are entitled to support for flood damage due to the fire. If you have new damage due to the floods, you can register for FEMA assistance. ***If you are already registered and have additional damage due to flooding, update your online profile.***

Per FEMA's guidance on their online FAQs [website](#), residents of New Mexico affected by the ongoing wildfires can apply for assistance from FEMA, ***even if you plan to take part in or are taking part in a class-action lawsuit.***

Finally, if you have registered for assistance and had another housing resource (staying with family/friends) but will not have that resource long term, ***let FEMA know. You may be eligible for additional assistance.***

U.S. Department of Agriculture

There are multiple programs available through USDA, including:

- **Rural Development Repair Loan and Grant Program:** Provides loans/grants for home repair. Increased the grant cap for elderly very-low-income homeowners in NM, up to \$36,520.
- **Emergency Conservation Program:** Helps farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands after disasters/drought.
- **Emergency Livestock Assistance Program:** Provides financial assistance to producers of livestock, honeybees, and fish.
- **Emergency Forest Restoration Program:** Helps owners of non-industrial private forests restore forest health.
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program:** Offers technical and financial assistance for impacted communities.

Applications are processed by individual agencies. For their contact information, see the "Find Your Local USDA Office" tab on the State's website at: <https://www.nmdhsem.org/2022-wildfires/federal-assistance/>.

COFFEE WITH KATIE – now on Wednesdays!

Plan to join Pastor Katie for good conversation, coffee, or tea, and maybe a pastry or some breakfast on Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m., at Charlie's. The more the merrier!



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, (fupc.nm@gmail.com) to the church office requesting that your name/email be added. The bulletin is emailed on Friday for the service along with a message from Pastor Katie.



TO JOIN ANY FUPC EVENTS VIA ZOOM

You are welcome to worship in the sanctuary, but if you would like to continue worshipping online, here are the instructions to access 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 pen 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 Zoom committee meetings and other non-public meetings, you'll receive a link from your committee chair.

First United Presbyterian Church

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

9:00 a.m. - Bible Based Study via Zoom
10:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship in person and via Zoom



Samaritan House Food Donations
OCTOBER 2022
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



- 3rd Linda Cunningham
- 6th Rod Billingsley
- 7th Chad Boliek
- Norman Spicer
- 13th Siobhan Croto
- 18th Lisa Weinstein
- 19th Renee Soderlund
- 29th George Bunch
- Larry Johns
- 30th Kathy Franken