



Sharing the Love of Christ
First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
PO Box 37
1000 Douglas Avenue
Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

MARCH 2023

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

As I write this letter, I am sitting in my daughter and daughter-in-law's living room with Lola, the dog. It's a quiet moment. New baby Eloise is with Tegan, nursing; Rosalie and D.R. are occupied with one task or another. So, I am able to try to put into words some of my ponderings of the last week since Eloise was born on Feb. 15. (Happy one-week birthday, Eloise!)



As most of you have experienced, it's a wonderful thing to hold a newborn baby in your arms. They bring to mind the miracle of life—that one minute we are tucked safely inside a womb and the next we are living, air-breathing, vocal human beings.

I have been thinking a lot, as I hold Eloise close, of Jesus' words to the disciples: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." What can we learn about the kingdom of heaven from a newborn baby? Perhaps, Eloise is teaching me, the kingdom is that place where we can relax completely, trusting that our needs will be met, that we will be held and nourished. All Eloise knows is that, when she cries, she is fed or changed. All she knows is that someone is always nearby to comfort her. All she knows is that loving arms hold her; she is assured by the minute that she is surrounded by love. In a newborn baby, there is no cynicism or skepticism, no fear.

In this Lenten season, let's remember that, to become like children—assured that our needs will be met, that we are loved and held in supportive arms—we must create the space in which all of us feel that way. Perhaps this Lent we can reflect on how we can create that environment for others and what we ourselves need to become like a child, remembering that children do not hesitate to voice their need for nourishment and comfort. Perhaps, as we head toward Easter, we can ponder what it means to be born anew—to enter into a place in which we are confident that we have a place in God's arms. And maybe even more importantly, we can continue to work to ensure that all of God's children have a place—a kin-dom—in which they know that the family of God will provide the nourishment, love, and support they need.

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie

Holy Week Schedule:

April 2 - Palm Sunday
April 6 - Maundy Thursday; no FUPC service
April 7 - Good Friday service, 7 p.m.
April 9 - Easter worship, 10:30 a.m.



WORSHIP TIDBITS

Our Lenten worship theme, “Overcoming Stumbling Blocks,” will guide us to consider the ways in which we stumble over all-too-common human tendencies that prevent us from living fully. Most of these texts are parables, which Jesus often used to get listeners to think about our everyday assumptions and practices in light of God’s plan for the human family. Our Lenten Sunday texts are:

March 5 – Matthew 20:1-16, Parable of laborers in the vineyard

March 12 – Matthew 22:1-14, Parable of the wedding banquet

March 19 – Matthew 25:1-13, Parable of the bridesmaids

March 26 – Matthew 25:31-46, Parable of the last judgment

April 2, Palm Sunday – Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his cleansing of the temple

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSIONS



What kind of woman do you imagine Jesus would have married? Author Sue Monk Kidd imagines a woman named Ana as Jesus’ wife in her novel *The Book of Longings*. Please join Pastor Katie for a discussion of this gripping story on Saturday, March 11, at 11:30 in The Gathering Place (east wing).

Much like the biblical women with whom we are familiar, Ana is strong and passionate. Her tale begins: “I am Ana. I was the wife of Jesus ben Joseph of Nazareth. I called him Beloved and he, laughing, called me Little Thunder.”

The discussion promises to be lively!

Kidd’s book is available through Amazon for \$13.99 (\$11.99 for Kindle edition); from Alibris for \$6.59.

Please let Katie know if you plan to attend so she can prepare for the appropriate number of participants!

CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT UPDATE



Our time of Congregational Renewal begins on the weekend of May 6/7 as we kick off “Tracking the Word: Embodying the Spirit” with Tracker John Stokes. Then, throughout the summer, while Pastor Katie and D.R. are on sabbatical, the FUPC family will have multiple opportunities to learn from and enjoy new ways to imagine the work of the Spirit in our lives. Some of these opportunities will be with local community and FUPC “coaches,” while we will have an opportunity every few weeks to learn from “professional coaches.” One of these is, of course, John Stokes, who is the director of The Tracking Project. Others include:

- in June, Jen Friedman, M.Div., an interfaith minister, musician, and leader of Dances of Universal Peace;
- in July, Roger Holland, M.Div., Professor in Music and Religion, Director of the Spirituals Project at the Lamont School of Music, University of Denver, pianist and singer AND Rev. Linda Loving, writer and actor;
- in August, Rev. Seth Finch, pastor and storyteller.

Stay tuned for more details about these exciting programs!



A season of exploration

Something for everyone

May 6 – September 10, 2023

First United Presbyterian Church

1000 Douglas Ave. • 505 425-7763

Las Vegas, NM

Tentative Schedule – Details to Come

• All events free and open to the public •

Most events will take place at 1000 Douglas Ave. • Check the website for workshop times

Sunday Worship Topics 10:30 A.M.

The Spirit & Nature
Tracking as Worship
Seeking the Spirit in Sabbatical
Spirit Journaling
A Universal Language
Tracking & Preaching
Art & the Spirit
Blessing Creation
From There to Here
Spirituals & Worship
Contemplation, a Spirit Exercise
Chi
Connecting Through Dance
Molecules & Tracking
The Spirit in Storytelling
Music & Spirit
Movement & Spirit
Spirit Tracking
Home Field

Saturday Workshops

Tracking Methods
Acting Techniques
Drama Development
Journaling
Poetry
Photography
Spirituals
Tai Chi
Woodworking
American Sign Language
Dance
Storytelling
Crafting
Glass Painting
Zentangle

FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE LILLY FOUNDATION

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

Tom Trigg and Mary Schipper are moving to Ohio. The time is coming soon, and we would like to share a **pot luck** with them on **Sunday March 19** after church. This will be their last Sunday in church since the moving van arrives on the 23rd and they head out after that. Although we are oh so sad to see them leave, we also wish them God speed and send all our love and hope and joy with them in their new life. Please plan to come to the potluck and share some time with Tom and Mary.

LET'S GATHER TO MAKE PRAYER SHAWLS

The purpose of a prayer shawl is **to give someone a tangible example of God's love and care**. The shawl is made of soft yarn so the recipient can wrap up in it and feel God's arms around him or her.

Have you wanted to knit or crochet a prayer shawl? The Deacons would like to invite you and any friends you have who are interested to meet the first Thursday of the month at 11 a.m., to knit/crochet together. Our first meeting will be on April 6, 2023. Crochet hooks, patterns and yarn will be provided along with lessons. If you would like to stay for lunch, please bring a sack lunch. We will meet in the Gathering Room at the church.

If you have any questions, please call Nina Marquez Johns at 505 425-5239.

NEW TENANT AT THE CHURCH

As part of our plan to rent out more spaces and increase use of the church, we have a massage therapist renting the nursery space on Tuesdays. Her name is TC Gritt, and she is an experienced massage and bodywork therapist. Several of us in the church have worked with her when she was working at Buena Vida and are thrilled she is back in Las Vegas. She can be reached at 505-699-2689 or tc.gritt@gmail.com. Let's make her feel welcome.

Celebration of New Life

Sunday, March 12 – 3 p.m.

Celebration of New Life

Perea Hall – Presbyterian Church

1000 Douglas Ave.

*Honoring the grandparents and parents
of the recently born and to be born.*

Refreshments of punch and cake

*This is not a shower; it is recognition
and celebration of family, and the joy babies bring to us all.*

Everyone is invited.

MOVIE NIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 1

**Saturday Streaming
Chocolat (PG-13)**

6 PM @ Perea Hall

1000 Douglas Ave

Come enjoy Popcorn, Chocolate, & Drinks

RSVP to Carol Linder

carollinder@msn.com

FREE
All Welcome



A French woman and her young daughter open up a chocolate shop in a small remote village that shakes up the rigid morality of the community (2000).



Lenten Study: A Takeoff on the Psalms

Sunday morning Lenten discussions this year are based on the book *Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey* by Barb Roose. Sessions are at 9 a.m. in the first classroom upstairs. This paperback book is readily available new or used from many sources. Richard Lindeborg can also have a new copy sent to your home for \$17.99, shipping included.

According to one vendor, “New Testament writers quote more from the Psalms than any other book in the Hebrew Bible. [The author] shows us why in this stirring reinterpretation of Jesus’ life, moving from the comforting assurances of Psalm 23 to the haunting cries of Psalm 22. How the psalmist’s experiences cross-reverberate with the earthly journey of God’s Son.”

One reviewer wrote, “Roose has captured the essence of the Poets’ message and provided deep insight into the path of Jesus that was blazed right through the middle of it all. This book will bless you by bringing you closer to the Lord, whether during the Lenten season or at any time of the year.”

Roose is the author of multiple books and Bible studies. Since 2005, she has been speaking to audiences in the US and abroad, including national platforms such as the Aspire Women’s Events, She Speaks Conference, and the UMC Leadership Institute.

Reading Assignments:

March 5 Ch. 2 “Finding Jesus with as in Our Hard Places” (plus Psalm 16).

March 12 Ch. 3 “Finding Jesus as Our Shepherd” (plus Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18).

March 19 Ch. 4 “Finding Jesus as Our Hope” (plus Psalms 100 and 110 and Hebrews 7).

March 26 Ch.5 “Finding Jesus as Our Strength” (plus Psalm 69, Matthew 26 and John 18)

April 2 Ch. 5 “Finding Jesus as Our Savior” (plus Psalm 22, Matthew 27 and John 20) and “Conclusion”

Sessions are at 9 a.m. in the first classroom upstairs (enter the church via the west entrance). Virtual attendees can use the same Zoom link as for the weekly worship service.

Sunday Class will Discuss the Minor Prophets

After Easter, the Sunday Morning Class for Adults and Youth will be discussing the prophets Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, and Malachi.

One commentator wrote, “To God all prophets are important, whether they speak a little or a lot. Even if God only gave you three words for somebody else, that is prophecy. You don’t need to do it at length for fifty years as some prophets did. There are some prophets in the Old Testament who only speak once, and then, as far as we know, they disappear; but they have given a message from God. This is all a prophet is: someone who has heard a message and passes it on to the right people.

“It is such a simple ministry. You don’t need to be theologically educated; you don’t need to be a public speaker. In fact, God seems to entrust this ministry to those who don’t have a gift of oratory. It is exciting to hear ordinary folk, who would never be able to get up into a pulpit and preach a sermon, hear from God and pass on a word from him.”

The Biblical books were written between about the 8th and 4th centuries BCE, and are found in both the Jewish Tanakh (as a single book) and the Christian Old Testament (as 12).

- The name “Minor Prophets” goes back apparently to St. Augustine, who distinguished the 12 shorter prophetic books as *prophetiae minores* from the four longer books of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.
- Scholars usually assume that there exists an original core of prophetic tradition behind each book which can be attributed to the figure after whom it is named.[2] In general, each book includes three types of material:
 - * Autobiographical material in the first person, some of which may go back to the prophet in question;
 - * Biographical materials about the prophet in the third person – which incidentally demonstrate that the collection and editing of the books was completed by persons other than the prophets themselves;
 - * Oracles or speeches by the prophets, usually in poetic form, and drawing on a wide variety of genres, including covenant lawsuit, oracles against the nations, judgment oracles, messenger speeches, songs, hymns, narrative, lament, law, proverb, symbolic gesture, prayer, wisdom saying, and vision.[3]

The exception is the Book of Jonah, an anonymous work which contains a narrative about the prophet Jonah.

Richard Lindeborg will announce the book to be discussed and how to purchase it. Sessions will be at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the first classroom upstairs. Virtual attendees can use the same Zoom link as for the weekly worship service.



MUSTARD SEED EXTENSION

Great news! The deadline for Mustard Seed proposals has been extended to Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

**Does your organization have an innovative idea but you
need a little help getting it off the ground?**

Apply for a Mustard Seed Grant

The First United Presbyterian Church awards grant funds for special new and innovative projects. The "seed" money, ranging from \$200 to \$1,500, helps organizations with a project for one-time, non-recurring expenses.

Funding Priorities:

Projects benefiting youth in our community
Mission projects within or beyond the community
Community or church-related projects to better our community

Submission guidelines may be downloaded at or Scan the QR code

<https://www.lvpresbyterian.org/mustard-seed-2023-proposal-information/>



For more information

Call the church office: 425-7763
or email: carollinder@msn.com or ckh5@me.com

MUSTARD SEED PROPOSALS
Due Monday, March 1, 2023 by noon
Mail to: PO Box 37 – Las Vegas, NM 87701
Email: fupc.nm@gmail.com



COFFEE WITH KATIE

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. We meet to get to know one another better, talk about the topics of the day, and enjoy bacon and eggs or pancakes or a cinnamon roll! 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

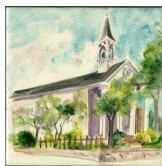
You are welcome and encouraged to worship in the sanctuary, but if you would like to continue worshipping online, here are the instructions to access Zoom:

- 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

MARCH 2023

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



March 1	Jeanette Huling
March 2	Bob Pearson
	Jan Beurskens
March 5	Bruce Wertz
March 6	John Arnold
March 14	Pat Halverson
March 16	Karyl Lyne
March 17	Ann Taylor-Trujillo
March 27	Jackson Awuzing
	Jim Croto
	Lorenzo Martinez