

HELLO FUPC FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

In this mailing you'll find 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 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 CHURCH

Sunday, December 17: Third Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m. – Bible-based Class in Session Room and via Zoom

10:30 a.m. –Worship in sanctuary and via Zoom followed by fellowship

Tuesday, December 19

6:30 p.m. – Session meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, December 20

8:30 a.m. - Coffee with Katie at Charlie's

7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary

Thursday, December 21

5:30 p.m. – Rainbow Ringers Rehearsal in The Gathering Place

Friday, December 22

4:00 p.m. – Samaritan House Cooking Team in kitchen

Sunday, December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent

No Class

10:30 a.m. –Worship in sanctuary and via Zoom followed by fellowship

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. – Service of Lessons and Responses



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

GROWING INTO WHOLENESS



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 Douglas Avenue, P.O. Box 37, Las Vegas, NM 87701
December 17, 2023 10:30 a.m.

MEDITATION – *I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.*
--Rabindranath Tagore

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE *Angels We Have Heard On High*, arr. Cameron Scott Hagler Rainbow Ringers

WELCOME Pastor Katie Palmer

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Jeremiah 18:1-6) Juli Salman

One: God said to Jeremiah, "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words."

All: **At the potter's house, Jeremiah watched the potter working at his wheel. The pot he was making of clay lay spoiled in the potter's hand.**

One: So he reworked it into a different pot, as seemed good to him.

All: **God said to Jeremiah, "Can I not do with you just as this potter has done? Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so you are in my hand."**

***OPENING HYMNS** *Change My Heart, O God* (GTG #695)
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (GTG #107)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY (GTG #137)

*He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forever more.*

SILENT PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM *O Come All Ye Faithful*, arr. Douglas E. Wagner Rainbow Ringers

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

...
 For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
 I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
 Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples;
 all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

SERMON *Joy in the Cracks* Pastor Katie Palmer

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE RITUAL OF THE ADVENT WREATH: JOY

(from Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, <http://rev-o-lution.org>, © 2020. Used by permission.)

A WORD ON JOY

LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE

COME, COME EMMANUEL (GTG #91)

UNISON PRAYER:

God of Joy, call us to sing, remind us to dance, tickle us into fits of laughter, because You are in our world and in our lives and doing something new, right now. Death and despair have nothing on You, and we rejoice in You, our Savior. Amen.

WITH THANKS FOR GENEROUS GIVING

***DOXOLOGY**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***CLOSING HYMN** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (GTG #100)*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

*Please stand in body or spirit, as you are able

Assisting in Worship This Week

Pastor – Rev. Katie Palmer	Worship Leader – Juli Salman
Accompanist – Em Krall	Choir Director – Jordan Jones
Rainbow Ringers Director – Karyl Lyne	
Sanctuary Hosts – Kevin Johnson, Charlotte Wootton	
Office Manager – Crystal Western Ford	Custodian - Marcus Garcia
Tech Crew – Judy Long, D.R. Palmer, Jeff Salman	



OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for fellowship in Perea Hall after worship today.

December fellowship time reminder:

12/17 Deb Allen-Reid and Kent Reid

12/24 Murl Baker

Signup sheet is in Perea Hall so, if you can, please sign up for a Sunday. Nothing elaborate is expected.

Next Sunday, December 24, we will worship at our regularly scheduled **10:30 hour** as we observe the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**. We will gather at **5:30 p.m. that evening for our Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Responses**.

Advent/Christmas Season Study: Discussion of the book *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark* by Tracy S. Daub, led by Katie and D.R. Palmer. The class will meet on Sundays, December 3, 10, 17 and January 7 and 14 from 8:45 – 9:30 in the Session Room. Daub's book is available for \$13.99 plus shipping on Amazon, from \$10.24 on Alibris, and also from other booksellers. For more information about the book, see the November newsletter. There will be no class December 24 or January 31. Reading assignment for January 7 is Chapter 4, "Hidden in Plain Sight: Secrets and Revelations of the Messiah."

During the month of December you can give to the Christmas Joy Offering which supports retired church workers who need financial assistance. You can give online via our website, leave a check in the offering plate or mail a check to the church.

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 Judi Ruprecht, Willy Ryan and Jane Warsaw and Fred Salas as well as First Presbyterian Church, Socorro, NM (1880).

December Elder of the Month – Carol Litherland 505-429-0923

December Deacon of the Month – Juli Salman – 505-429-0290

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. – Noon

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