

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 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

#### Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Church Office Closed

#### Wednesday, December 27

No Coffee with Katie

No Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, December 28

No Rainbow Ringers Rehearsal

#### Friday, December 29

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

#### Sunday, December 31

No class

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

#### Monday, January 1

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Church Office Closed



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 24, 2023 10:30 a.m.

**MEDITATION** – *God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.* —Saint Augustine

### WE GATHER TOGETHER

**PRELUDE**

Em Krall

**WELCOME**

Pastor Katie Palmer

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

Murl Baker

**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)

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (GTG #93)

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

*He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;*

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

**SILENT PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

### WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I

am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

**SERMON**

*God Favors You*

Pastor Katie Palmer

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**THE RITUAL OF THE ADVENT WREATH: LOVE**

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

**A WORD ON LOVE**

**LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE**

**COME, COME EMMANUEL (GTG #91)**

**UNISON PRAYER:**

**God of love, remind us that love is transformative, but it must be shared. We must love one another as You have first loved us, for You loved us so much You sent the Son to us, so that we might know that love can never die, that Your steadfast love remains forever. As your love transformed the world long ago, Your love continues to transform us into Your children, and we await the promise that love will change the world again. 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**

*Love Has Come (GTG #110)*

**\*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 – Murl Baker
Accompanist – Em Krall	Choir Director – Jordan Jones
Sanctuary Hosts – Kevin Johnson, Charlotte Wootton	
Office Manager – Crystal Western Ford	Custodian - Marcus Garcia
Tech Crew – Peter Linder, Jeff Salman, Juli Salman	



**OPPORTUNITIES**

Join us for fellowship in Perea Hall after worship today.

**December fellowship time reminder:**

12/24 Murl Baker

12/31 Bonnie Trujillo

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

We will gather at **5:30 p.m. this evening for our Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Responses.**

**Advent/Christmas Season Study Continues:** Our discussion of the book *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark* by Tracy S. Daub, led by Katie and D.R. Palmer, will not meet on December 31, but will resume Sundays, January 7 and 14. Class meets 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. The Reading assignment for January 7 is Chapter 4, "Hidden in Plain Sight: Secrets and Revelations of the Messiah."

**The Sunday Morning Class for Adults and Youth will resume** its discussion of the book *The Grace of God and the Grace of Man: The Theologies of Bruce Springsteen* on January 21 and continue through February 18. The book is only available in paperback. The cost plus shipping can be as low as \$12.01 (from Alibris). It is \$12.12 from AbeBooks and \$16 from Amazon. Some used copies are available for slightly less. Richard Lindeborg can order a copy sent from Amazon to your address with no shipping charge. A list of the reading assignments and the songs/albums discussed in each chapter is available from Richard at [ralindeborg@cs.com](mailto:ralindeborg@cs.com). The audio for most songs is available on Youtube and elsewhere on the Internet.

Following a short winter break, the **choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m.**

**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 Juli, Jeff, Molly and Mack Salman, Trudi Samuelson and Shirley Sandoval as well as First Presbyterian Church, Taos, NM (1874).

*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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