

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 31

No Advent Class

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

Monday, January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2

3:00 p.m. – Mission and Peacemaking

Wednesday, January 3

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

Thursday, January 4

9:00 a.m. – WAM in Session Room

Friday, January 5

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

Sunday, January 7

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

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



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



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 Douglas Avenue, P.O. Box 37, Las Vegas, NM 87701
December 31, 2023 10:30 a.m.

MEDITATION – *Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that we may live continually in the light of Jesus.* --ELCA Book of Worship

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE

Em Krall

WELCOME

Pastor Patricia Halverson, Retired

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 148)

Richard Lindeborg

One: Let them praise the name of the LORD: Praise the Lord from the earth,

All: For he commanded and they were created, He established them forever and ever.

One: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command.

All: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

One: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted, his glory is above the earth and heaven.

***OPENING HYMN** *Jesus Light of Joy* (#GTG 673)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Richard Lindeborg

HYMN

That Boy Child of Mary (#GTG 139)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Richard Lindeborg

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2: 22-40

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son in our hearts, crying, "Abba!, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom and the favor of God was upon him.

SERMON Pastor Patricia Halverson, Retired

RESPONSE *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt* (#GTG 120)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

WITH THANKS FOR GENEROUS GIVING Richard Lindeborg

***DOXOLOGY** Richard Lindeborg

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Pastor Patricia Halverson, Retired

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***CLOSING HYMN** *Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator* (#GTG 18)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Pastor Patricia Halverson, Retired

***POSTLUDE** Em Krall

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

Assisting in Worship This Week

Pastor – Rev. Patricia Halverson, Retired	Worship Leader – Richard Lindeborg
Accompanist – Em Krall	Choir Director – Jordan Jones
Sanctuary Hosts – Kevin Johnson, Charlotte Wootton	
Office Manager – Crystal Western Ford	Custodian - Marcus Garcia
Tech Crew – Carol Linder, Kent Reid, Juli Salman	



OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for fellowship in Perea Hall after worship today.

December fellowship time reminder:

12/31 Bonnie Trujillo

1/7 _____

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

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. 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.**

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 Mary Schipper and Tom Trigg, Renee Soderlund and Jerry Russell and Linda and Gene Solyntjes as well as Smith Memorial United Presbyterian Church, Truchas, NM (1903).

January Elder of the Month – D.R. Palmer -- 303-775-7259

January Deacon of the Month – Bonnie Trujillo – 505-617-0459

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

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