

WELCOME! We are glad you are here. You are invited to participate in the service to the degree you are comfortable, including receiving Communion. Please write your name and address on the attendance pad when it is passed and gather for a time of friendship and refreshment in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

Lenten/Eastertide Study continues through May 6. We are discussing Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, which "provides a way to find spirituality in those times when we don't have all the answers."

Hand In Hand - Mission & Peacemaking invites you to attend an interfaith gathering in Fellowship Hall today, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm to learn about Hand in Hand, an educational program in Israel which builds a shared society for Jews and Arabs through integrated schools and communities.

Mother's Day Luncheon - Sunday, May 13th. Attention men of the church: Please contact Richard Lindeborg at ralindeborg@cs.com to volunteer to help cook and serve at the annual Mother's Day Luncheon.

Samaritan House Tour for members of FUPC on April 23rd at 6:00 pm. Our church has had a long standing commitment to work with the homeless in Las Vegas, and we support this ministry in many ways. The meeting is to see the new facility at 1000 Mills Ave. (next to BTU), as well as to hear about Samaritan's long range plans to better help the homeless community in Las Vegas. We will meet at Samaritan House.

JOT Benefit Breakfast Buffett – Saturday, May 5th at the Masonic Temple. Contact Tom Trigg, Rosie Lopez, D. R. Palmer, or Pat Halverson for tickets - \$10

Study Leave – Pastor Katie will be on Study Leave and out of town from Friday, April 20 – Saturday, April 28. Please call the office or the church cell phone (505-231-1923) with any pastoral care needs.

Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering - Offering envelopes are available on the action table and from Joyce Litherland. Gifts should be remitted by May 31st. Please mark your checks for "PW Birthday Offering."

Prayers for the Church Family - Please pray for Eleanor Nelson, Don Owens, and Katie & D R Palmer and for First Presbyterian Church, Taos NM (1874). These names remind us to pray for each other and for the churches in our Presbytery.

The flowers in the sanctuary are donated by Pam's Flowers on the Plaza and dedicated to the glory of God.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Tuesday, April 24

No "Coffee with Katie"

5:15 p.m. – Deep & Wide Service, Mission Church

Wednesday, April 25

6:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir

7:00 p.m. – Rainbow Ringers

Church Office: 505-425-7763

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rev Katie Palmer – Office: 425-7763 Cell: 505-231-1923

April Elder of the Month – Carol Linder – 505-429-2139

April Deacon of the Month – Patrick Rucker/Sean Croto 505-454-9707

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 Douglas Avenue Las Vegas NM 87701
April 22, 2018
EARTH DAY

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

MEDITATION

No race or society can prosper until it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem. Booker T. Washington, born 1856

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

(Please use this time to share the peace of the Lord with your neighbor.)

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you

(Please return to your seat when the introduction to the hymn starts.)

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

INTROIT

Wondrous Love

Walker/Honore

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We have come here seeking to worship the God of all Creation.

All: We have come to stand on holy ground!

One: We have come to sing God's praises, as trees and plants sing God's praise with their blooming.

All: We have come to sing praises to our Creator!

One: We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit like our surrounding flowing waters.

All: We have come to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit! We have come to experience the God of Creation in this sacred space.

*** OPENING HYMN** PH #469 *Morning Has Broken*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

One: There is nowhere that we can run to escape God's love and compassion. In the generous gift of Jesus the Christ of Nazareth, we have been forgiven. As children of God, we are invited into the meaningful work of following faithfully after Jesus, here in this place.

All: Thanks be to our faithful God. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that for many of us the history of how we came to be here is more complex than we understand. We confess that we have lost our connection to our local habitat --- to the names of the birds of the air, and the fish of the waters, and every crawling thing that you have created. We confess that we are a people who have lost our connection to the dirt under our feet. The very substance into which you breathed life. Transform us, O God, and give us roots. Empower us to discover the history of this sacred place where you called us. Embolden us to reconcile with all children of God who call this place home, and to honor their care for the land. Help us to learn the seasons of this sacred place, to learn the native flowers and trees, native birds and wildlife. Open our eyes to the seeds that have been sown here for millennia and the intentional care you have taken in crafting our habitat. May we be rooted and grounded in the family of God in our midst. We offer now our silent prayers. (Pause in silent prayer.) Amen.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM *All Glory, Laud and Honor* arr Valerie W Stephenson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Still our hearts and minds, Precious Lord, that we may not be distracted from your message to each of us this day. Speak in ways so that we each might hear your call to serve you when we leave this place. Amen.

FIRST TESTAMENT READING Psalm 104:10-23 Pew Bible Page 483

GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:1-9 Pew Bible Page 794

SERMON *Love That Dirt!* Rev. Larry Graham-Johnson

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE PH #338 *Kum ba Yah*

WE SEAL GOD'S WORD *(see insert)*

SONG OF PREPARATION PH #507 *I Come With Joy* (Vs 1-3)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right

INSTITUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Please come forward to receive communion.

Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and eat!

Gluten-free elements are available near the west door.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, we have shared in the feast which you have provided through your Son, Christ Jesus our living Lord. As we have partaken of these elements of the bread and the cup, fruits of the earth, may we become the body and life of Christ as we leave this place to serve you in the world. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO OFFERING

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

A Dios el Padre celestial;

Al Hijo nuestro redentor

Y al eternal Consolador,

Unidos todos alabad. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Lord in your Mercy (or Lord, with joy)

(The people respond to each petition with "*Hear our prayer*")

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*CLOSING HYMN PH #432 *Canto de Esperanza* (Spanish and English)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please stand if you are able.

Assisting in Worship Today

Preacher – Rev. Larry Graham-Johnson

Worship Leader – Patrick Rucker

Accompanist – Em Krall

Director of Music – Karyl Lyne

Sound – Jeff Salman/Sean Croto

Visuals – Tom Trigg/Linda Solyntjes

Communion is offered each Sunday from October 1 through Pentecost (May 20, 2018) and on the first and third Sundays of each month from June through September. We do not celebrate Communion on the fifth Sunday of a month due to the addition of the Healing Liturgy to the service.