

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship today. Copies of the Annual Report are available in the narthex.

LIFT is hosting a Valentine's week fundraising dinner this coming Friday, February 16, from 5:30-7:30pm in the church fellowship hall. No tickets, just drop in and enjoy. Tip donations will be used to fund our LIFT Mission Trips.

Post Superbowl Souper Bowl - It has been a long standing tradition to have the children and youth of our church collect money for the local soup kitchens on Super Bowl Sunday. Bruce Wertz is the faithful keeper of this tradition reminding us each year. This morning after worship before the congregational meeting, we will have the children and youth help us with this collection. Thanks for your generous support!

Education Class for Adults And Youth - Rod Billingsley's class on *Old Testament Stories Your Mother Never Told You* runs through February 18. Next week: Balaam's Ride (Numbers 22:1-35).

Lenten/Eastertide Study will be led by Pastor Katie beginning February 25. We will be reading 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." Brown argues that "[o]ften, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most." (Amazon review) Books are available in the church office for \$10.

Lenten Lunches - Starting February 25th we will have Soup & Bread after services each Sunday through March 25th. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall so please sign up during fellowship time. A *gentle reminder* to please bring a full pot of soup so we will be able to serve everyone who attends.

Prayers for the Church Family - Please pray for Robin Carlson & Les Jones, Jim, Siobhan & Sean Croto, and Wilma Cunico as well as for White Rock Presbyterian Church, Los Alamos NM (1967). These names remind us to pray for each other and for the churches in our Presbytery.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Monday, February 12

7:00 a.m. – I&S at Charlie's

3:30 p.m. – JOT at OTM

Tuesday, February 13

7:00 a.m. – Community Life at Charlie's

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. - Coffee with Katie at Charlie's

5:15 p.m. - Deep and Wide Taizé Service at OTM

Wednesday, February 14

5:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service

6:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir

7:00 p.m. – Rainbow Ringers

Friday, February 16

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. – LIFT Fundraising Dinner

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

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 Douglas Avenue Las Vegas NM 87701
February 11, 2018

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

MEDITATION – *Worship is a way of seeing the world in the light of God.*
--Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

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.

BELL INTROIT

Praise

Mary G McCleary

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by a Howard Thurman poem)

We gather, a family wanting to do the work of Christmas.

We seek to find the lost, to heal the broken,

to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,

to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people,

to make music in the heart.

Created to care, we pause in wonder and praise for our Creator God.

Great God, we come with grateful hearts and ask that our worship empower us to live for you.

*** OPENING HYMN** STF #2061, *Creator of Mountains*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

We remember that, before we confess and no matter what we confess to God, we can be assured of God's Love and Mercy.

Leader: Know this. Christ showers us with love and grace; Christ gives us sight and insight. In Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and whole.

People: Thanks be to God!

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we are often blind to the light you shine in the world. We fail to see the path it illuminates for us and instead follow the wrong road. We want to do your work, but get sidetracked with our own agendas. Sometimes, we see only insurmountable obstacles instead of possibilities. Open our eyes to your light, we pray. Remind us that, even when we stumble and fall, even when we feel enveloped in darkness, even when we are overwhelmed, you are there with us. Speak to us that we may hear your instruction; show us what we need to see, that we may follow you. We offer now our silent prayers. (Pause in silent prayer.) Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE STF #2086 *Open Our Eyes*

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.**

**Open our eyes, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING John 9:1-41 Pew Bible Page 871

ANTHEM *Soliloquy for Bells* Karen L. Buckwalter

SERMON *Ears and Eyes* Rev. Katie Palmer

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

PH #425 *Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO OFFERING

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;	A Dios el Padre celestial;
Praise God all creatures here below;	Al Hijo nuestro redentor
Praise God above ye heavenly host;	Y al eternal Consolador,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.	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 SEAL GOD'S WORD.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

SONG OF PREPARATION PH #521, *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

INSTITUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Communion will be served by intinction.

Please come forward, take a piece of bread, and dip it in the cup.

Gluten-free elements are available near the west door.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, you are the Holy One who nourishes and guides us. Thank you for inviting us to sit together at your table. As we leave the table this morning fed by the love that Jesus' birth brought to us, let us go out to do the work of Christmas. Let us be guided always by your vision—the light you shine into our lives. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN PH #339 *Be Thou My Vision*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please stand if you are able.

Assisting in Worship Today

Pastor – Rev Katie Palmer

Worship Leader – Tom Trigg

Choir Director – Karyl Lyne

Accompanist – Em Krall

Rainbow Ringers Handbell Ensemble

Sound – Patrick Rucker/Sean Croto

Visuals – D.R. Palmer/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.

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

February Elder of the Month – Robin Carlson – 505-425-7992

February Deacon of the Month – Jan Beurskens – 716-864-2026