



Sharing the Love of Christ
First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
PO Box 37
1000 Douglas Avenue
Las Vegas New Mexico 87701



JUNE/JULY 2019

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

With the concerts in our sanctuary (Soprano Tanyaradzwa Tawenga in April and a cappella ensemble Sound Circle just a few days away as I write this) and recent visits from close friends who happen to be visual artists, I've been thinking a lot about the arts.

Scripture doesn't mention the visual arts much, other than to talk about the formation of idols made from precious metals or carved intricately into wood. And, of course, there are the intricate descriptions of Noah's Ark and the first temple. Perhaps this is why, during the Reformation, much religious artwork was destroyed under claims of idolatry—especially statues, but also paintings.

On the other hand, we hear a lot about music—making a joyful noise to the Lord—and we see the power of poetry in many of our sacred texts and hear the power of drama in descriptions of dreams and in Jesus' parables.

I know that, for me, the arts are like a direct line to spirituality. Research done exploring the link between spirituality and art reveals that artistic expression can help us explore spiritual meaning and articulate our spiritual truth. All kinds of art.

So I am planning to provide us some avenues for such expression over the summer.

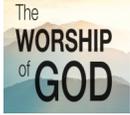
Some of that will be worked in to worship—for instance, we'll be reading some children's literature during worship in June. And we'll have an opportunity to explore some musical expression as we gather to learn hymns from the new hymnal. (Remember, Martin Luther said, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.")

I'd also like to encourage you to express in drawing or poetry or journaling what you're hearing and feeling during worship by providing paper, pencils, and colors, starting appropriately enough on Pentecost Sunday (June 9). I ask two things: (1) Please pick up said papers, pencils, and colors so those who take responsibility for keeping the sanctuary tidy do not have an increased work load; and (2) If what you're feeling during worship is boredom, please don't share that with me. I would love it, though, if you would share and describe to me how you engaged with Scripture, sermon, liturgy, music, the space, or something else as you drew or wrote.

In late June, D.R. and I will be taking some time away to be with our daughter and her family. We will not doubt spend time with our grandchildren singing, coloring, helping them with crafts, and watching them put on puppet shows and maybe writing stories. Through those activities, we will probably see some of their frustration as well as joy in creating and we will get a sense of what they are feeling and what they think about things. (In a puppet show they performed for us in March, being compassionate and sharing figured prominently. That's nice to know.) Some of us, too, can express our frustration, our creativity, and discover what we feel and what we think about things in these same ways. Let's take the opportunity to explore this avenue of discovery!

With thanks for all of you,
Pastor Katie





Worship Tidbits from Pastor Katie

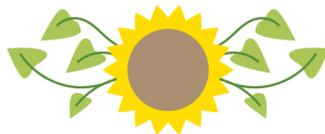
Pentecost is June 9, and we'll be celebrating the coming of the Spirit and the way it fills us and allows us to bloom and grow! Please wear colors of flame—red, orange, yellow!

Then, we'll have some Summer Storytime! On June 16 and 23, we'll pair Scripture with some children's books to deliver the message. On June 30, we add a healing liturgy to our worship.

And...change is coming to the sanctuary in June, when we once again shift the orientation of the pews to give us a different perspective. Now, I know that some of you are firmly committed to your identity as “rowers”—those who like the traditional sanctuary orientation with pews facing the chancel in rows. And others are equally committed to being “rounders”—those who like the more rounded feel of the pews facing the courtyard. And some of you don't really care too much.

I'd like to invite you to think, over the course of the summer, about the theology expressed in each of these configurations. You know, in early Presbyterian churches, a massive pulpit was placed in the middle of the chancel and elevated quite a bit above everything else (sometimes with several stairs to reach the platform). This conveyed the primacy in the reformed faith of God's Word, where the pulpit, the reading of Scripture, and the preaching of the Word took precedence over and everything else.

So what is the theological message you receive when our pews are in the traditional configuration? What about when our pews face the courtyard, the communion table is just a few feet away from the front arc of pews, and the Word is read and preached from floor-level with a music stand serving as lectern/pulpit? I'd love to hear your theological ponderings about this! Shoot me an email (pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com) and let me know what you think!



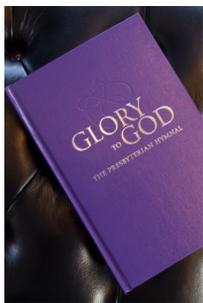
Worship & Music

Worship and Music has been busy making flowers and ‘growing vines’ as the new life of resurrection occurs in the world and particularly on the tomb in our sanctuary. Keep an eye out for signs of new life in the sanctuary as we approach Pentecost on June 9. We'll change the configuration of the sanctuary on June 16 from rows to a large semi-circle facing the east as we move into a bit more open arrangement of pews for the summer.

Also, after Pentecost June 9, we'll be celebrating communion on the first and third Sundays of the month. You may recall there was discussion about the frequency of communion last year and it was decided that we would celebrate communion every Sunday between World-Wide Communion Sunday at the beginning of October and Pentecost; then have it the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the summer. If you have a preference on the frequency of communion, please share that with Pastor Katie or a member of WAM (Karyl, Tom, Lisa, Beth, Charlotte, Renee B.).

Finally, I am delighted to report that we have the new *Glory to God* hymnals and the book plates are being prepared. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO purchased one or more of those book plates! There will be a service on June 16 to welcome the hymnals to their new home here at FUPC. Also, we're planning to gather on a couple of Sunday mornings in June and July at 9:30 am to learn some of the new music in those hymnals. Stand by for more information on these singalongs!

Karyl Lyne, Chair of WAM



Coming Soon: Four Sundays to Learn the New Hymnal

Thanks to the many donations of hymnals in memory or honor of friends and family, we have received 127 copies of the new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*.

On June 9th we will each carry a copy of our present 1990 hymnal to the back of the sanctuary, placing it on tables for donation, and on June 16th we will each carry a copy of *Glory to God* into the sanctuary and place it in our pew rack. The new hymnal may be 2 ounces lighter and 3/8 inch thinner than the old one, but don't let that fool you: There are nearly 250 more hymns of all kinds in *Glory to God*! Although 60% of the hymns in *Glory to God* are from the old hymnal, it is time to give some other hymns a chance to become new favorites.

Getting an Early Start

During late June and Mid-July, worship will start an hour earlier (at 9:30) to give us a chance to sample the new music from *Glory to God*. The Jump Start breakfast at 8:30 will provide plenty of nourishment and coffee to get early arrivers started, and there will be a brief break at 10:20. Em Krall, Karyl Lyne, and members of the choir will lead the singing. The Sundays and their themes are

- June 23 - GOD'S MIGHTY ACTS I** Jesus Christ (Advent, Birth, Life, Passion, Resurrection)
- June 30 - GOD'S MIGHTY ACTS II** Trinity, Creation, The Church, Christ's Return
- July 7 - (Regular worship only on July 7, due to Fiestas)**
- July 14 - THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP** Confession, Baptism, Lord's Supper, Service Music
- July 23 - OUR RESPONSE TO GOD** Praising the Triune God, Joining in the Spirit's Work, Hoping for Christ's Return

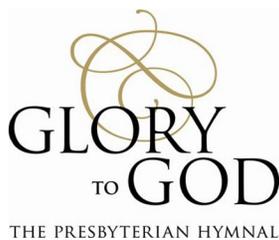
Exploring What's New

Glory to God has music covering all major historical and contemporary sacred genres, including approximately 35 African American/Gospel hymns (Soon and Very Soon; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, etc.) There are older hymns that have never been published in a Presbyterian hymnal ("Leaning on the Everlasting Arms", "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"), contemporary praise songs ("Awesome God"), and global music (music from 6 continents, in many different languages). In addition, there are more than 20 songs from the Taize (pronounced "tuh-ZAY") community.

Some of the new hymns are

- "Gather Us In," text by Marty Haugen
- "Rock of Ages," text by Augustus Toplady
- "Come and Fill Our Hearts / Confitemini Domino" from the Taizé community. In English and Latin.
- "Shout to the North," text by Martin Smith
- "Freedom is Coming" from the South African freedom movement
- "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah," a traditional Caribbean tune
- "His Eye is on the Sparrow," text by Civilla D. Martin
- "O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic is Your Name" by Michael W. Smith

Glory To God will add a new dimension to our worship, and being able to sing some new songs with confidence will ease the way. Please plan to participate in these early learning sessions!



"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Martin Luther



I don't know about you, but I get SOOOO excited about the vibrancy and can-do spirit of our church! We decided to undertake the purchase of new hymnals recently and it's done! We decided to purchase new furniture for Perea Hall and it's done; and not just done, but arranged beautifully and bedecked with attractive table cloths and flower arrangements thanks to Van Swan!

On Sunday, May 26th, we hosted international peacemaker, Dr. Tecla Wanjala from Kenya, who shared her award-winning approach to helping people recover from the trauma of violence and loss, thanks to Murl Baker.

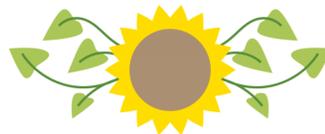
Next week, we host a concert of Sound Circle Women's Chorus from Boulder, Colorado, the proceeds of which will be split between the group and the Samaritan House Meal Preparation Project, thanks to Katie and DR.

On Friday afternoons the Samaritan House Cooking Team prepares a meal for 20, which feeds the hungry each week, thanks to Denice Spicer and a great team of volunteers.

Last week the Understanding Immigration Task Force, which meets in Perea Hall on Monday evenings at 5:30, met in our 2nd floor Internet Room and Skyped with Jack and Linda Knox, a Mennonite pastor and his wife, and friends of Randy Campbell, who live 9 blocks from the border in Douglas, AZ. They shared information about their work and their observations of the shelters on both sides of the border, Border Patrol, cartel behavior and day to day life there.

Last Sunday, the How to Start the Conversation group met to listen and converse about gun control.

Each week our sanctuary is graced with beautiful flower arrangements, thanks to Judy Long; and we're able to hear every word in our worship, thanks to Jeff Salman and Patrick Rucker. And the list goes on and on..... we are truly blessed!



Simplify Your Summer Donations with Online Giving



FUPC now has online giving. Electronic gifts are fast and secure, and they reduce administrative costs. And if you're vacationing and won't be in church, you can still give.

Give anytime, anywhere to your favorite funds using your bank account (no extra fees) or a debit/credit card (incurs a small fee). You can click on the **Donate** button in this article to go directly to the church website donation page or scan the QR code at the end of this article.

You also can give using your smartphone. Just download the app from either the App Store or Google Play. Search for *GivePlus church*. Download it to your phone and you're ready to give. You will be asked to set up your church - just search for us or let your location find the church. That will be your "home church."

If you would like to give electronically and have any questions, please contact the church office.

GivePlus Powered By Vanco Payment Solutions





Bible-Based Class for Adults and Youth Has Two Summer Series And A Break

The Bible Based Class for Youth and Adults will conclude one series, take a month off, and then take up a new topic for the last part of summer.

Finishing up *Christian Doctrine*

The class has three more sessions in its study of the book *Christian Doctrine* (3rd edition) by Shirley C. Guthrie, led by Rod Billingsley.

Class members have found the sessions to be stimulating and the chapters of the book surprisingly easy, entertaining, and short! Professor Guthrie seems to anticipate all the questions and doubts that class members have had about the various doctrines of the church – and to be able to summarize very clearly the doctrines and their various interpretations. He assures us that we are all our own theologians.

Class members have asked that we schedule another series or two sometime soon to cover twelve doctrines not covered in this series of discussions. Watch for future announcements.

The remaining sessions and reading assignments are

June 2: Providence (Chapter 9) – Why Doesn't God Do Something About Evil?

June 9: Predestination (Chapter 7) – What Does God Want with Us?

June 16: The Trinity (Chapter 5) -- Who is God?

Two copies of the book are available in the Narthex for \$4 each.

Learning New Hymns

The class will take June 23 through July 21 off to join the congregation in learning new hymns from the *Glory to God* hymnal. These sessions will be in the sanctuary at 9:30, right after the Jump Start breakfast. (See separate story)

Jimmy Carter's *Faith: A Journey for All*

The class will start a new six-week session on July 28, devoted to Former President Jimmy Carter's recent book *Faith: A Journey for All*

In this powerful reflection, President Jimmy Carter contemplates how faith has sustained him in happiness and disappointment. He considers how we may find it in our own lives. (*NY Times*)

In summarizing his book, Carter states: "My primary goal is to explore the broader meaning of faith, its far-reaching effect on our lives, and its relationship to past, present, and future events in America and around the world. The religious aspects of faith are also covered, since this is how the word is most often used, and I have included a description of the ways my faith has guided and sustained me, as well as how it has challenged and driven me to seek a closer and better relationship with people and with God".

Sessions and reading assignments are

July 21 Introduction and Chapter 1: Meanings of Faith

July 28 Chapter 2: Acquiring Faith

August 4 Chapter 3: Religious Faith

August 11 Chapter 4: Demonstrating our Faith

August 18 Chapter 5 What Faith Means to me

August 25 Chapter 6: Challenges to Faith, and Afterword

Copies of *Faith: A Journey for All* will be available in the church office for \$12.00 starting July 8.

Bible-Based classes run from 9:30 to 10:15 Sunday Mornings in the East Wing, right after the Jump Start Breakfast.



First United Presbyterian Church

PO Box 37

Las Vegas NM 87701

505-425-7763

Website: www.lvpresbyterian.org

Facebook: Las Vegas First United Presbyterian (NM)

Email: fupc.nm@gmail.com

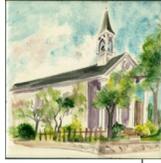
Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. - Jumpstart Breakfast:

9:30 a.m. - Bible Based Study

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship

Fellowship Hour following the worship service



JUNE/JULY 2019



Samaritan House Food Donations
For June
Flour and Sugar
Coffee and Tea are always needed



Communion is offered each Sunday from October 1 through Pentecost (June 9, 2019) 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.

June Birthdays

8th Patrick Rucker
10th Rosalie Lopez
16th Rudy Laumbach
18th Bonnie Trujillo
21st Kent Reid
25th Sean Croto
29th Ken Litherland

July Birthdays

9th Sharon Vander Meer
21st John Detterick
Bryan Johnson
26th Murl Baker
27th Carol Litherland
30th Randy Campbell
31st Gordy Thatcher



Deep and Wide

A Contemplative Service at the Old Town Mission
5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. on second and fourth Tuesdays
at the Old Town Mission.

This is an ecumenical gathering open to all,
sponsored by FUPC.

Questions? Call D.R. Palmer 303-775-7259