

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.

Education Class for Adults And Youth--Rod Billingsley's class on *Old Testament Stories Your Mother Never Told You* began this morning and runs through February 18. Next week: "Two Strong Women and A Couple of Weak Men" (Judges 4 and 5).

Asset Mapping opportunity for those who were not able to participate in our congregational retreat in October will be held on Sunday, February 4, at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come participate in this exercise to provide input on future mission and projects for the church. If you plan to attend, please email Pastor Katie (pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com) or call the church office.

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 \$10.00

Prayers for the Church Family - Please pray for Christie & Douglas Baskett, Frank & Jan Beurskens, and Rod Billingsley & Karen Topping as well as for the United Church of Los Alamos NM (1947). 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, January 30

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

Wednesday, January 31

6:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir

7:00 p.m. – Rainbow Ringers

Thursday, February 1

5:30 p.m. – Worship & Music

Assisting in Worship Today

Pastor – Rev Katie Palmer

Worship Leader –Mary Schipper

Choir Director – Karyl Lyne

Sound – Patrick Rucker/Sean Croto

Visuals – D.R. Palmer/Linda Solyntjes

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 Douglas Avenue Las Vegas NM 87701
January 28, 2018

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

MEDITATION – *The way to love anything is to realize that it may be lost.*—
G.K. Chesterton

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.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from a poem by Howard Thurman)

God's tent is gone from our sanctuary

But our hearts live in it with Christ.

What now do we do

when the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their
flocks?

Now the work of Christmas begins:

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.

*** OPENING HYMN** STF # 2274 *Come All You People*

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. In Christ, we are found when we are lost, forgiven when we sin, created anew when we crumble, and loved always.

People: Thanks be to God!

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the lost, the lonely, the confused and the seeking, we confess that we often look for answers in all the wrong places and that we turn a blind eye to the lost around us when they most need our help. When we falter, guide us to look to the place where your divine love lives within us and among your people. When we encounter others who are lost, guide us to reach out, to seek understanding, and to demonstrate your abundant love. We offer now our silent prayers. (Pause in silent prayer.) Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE STF #2150, *Lord, Be Glorified*

In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Numbers 21:4-9 Pew Bible Page 122
 John 3:1-12 Pew Bible Page 863

ANTHEM *Unsettled World* Sparks/Hopson

SERMON *Lost? Look Up* Rev. Katie Palmer

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit ... sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ ... In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ ... to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO OFFERING

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY *There Is Enough*

*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 STF #2267 *Taste And See*

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 find those who are lost and show them your love, grace, and mercy. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN STF #2184 *Sent Out in Jesus' Name*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Please stand if you are able.

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

January Elder of the Month – Christie Baskett – 505-930-0667

January Deacon of the Month – Christina Litherland – 505-429-1007