

We are staffing the church for limited hours during the re-opening phase of the State's plan. If you need to stop by, please call first. Please be advised that any visitors will be required to wear a face mask and observe social distancing protocols.

**Our staff members can be reached individually by phone or email between 8am and 4pm, Monday through Friday:**

**Matthew Miller**

505-764-2902

**Frank Yates**

505-681-0625

**Carolyn Rhodes**

505-764-2900  
or 505-764-2906

**Libby Whiteley**

505-764-2924

**Niccole Pierre-Williams**

505-764-2911

If you have an after-hours emergency, you can reach Matthew through our Helpline at 505-764-2910

**First Presbyterian Church  
(USA)**

**215 Locust Street, NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
505-764-2900  
www.firstpresabq.org**

Congratulations to Rev. Stephanie and Brian Urban and their beautiful baby boy, Dominic Joseph Urban. He was born on April 16, 2021. Our greatest gift to Stephanie is the peace of quiet time to adjust and focus on her new family. She will be on parental leave until mid-July. Please reach Matthew or Carolyn with any inquiries.

First Presbyterian Church of Albuquerque's

# Messenger Light

June 16, 2021



## A Word from our Presbyterian Mission Agency

Every year since 1865, there has been one day that most Black people have held as a celebratory occurrence. On June 19, 1865, the last of the Black Americans who were in the condition of chattel servitude were freed. Texas, the last state to hold out on the edict of the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln more than two years prior, had finally been forced into compliance. And so, it is this date in June that many Black Americans consider to be Independence Day and thus a cause for annual jubilation that we have titled "Juneteenth."

However, was it really a cause for celebration? It is important to understand that to emancipate means to free from bondage, control and/or restraint. And even though Black people were technically free from the bondage of chattel slavery, the restraint of second-class citizenship, racism, economic inequity, unjust laws, mistreatment and bigotry were and still are inescapable residuals that have never ceased. Juneteenth meant that under the law, no one individual in the southern states (as the Emancipation Proclamation only mentioned the southern states) could possess another human being as their property. This meant that, on paper, everyone was now free to pursue the idea of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Unfortunately, this was merely a pipe dream for the almost 4 million individuals who now found themselves without money, housing, food, support or governmental assurance for their existence, safety and advancement. Moreover, according to the law, it was in fact the slaveholders who were compensated monetarily for the loss of labor once their enslaved labor force was freed. Newly emancipated Black people were left to figure out how to move forward in a system that had perpetually robbed them of their humanity, dignity, rights, familial ties, culture and freedom. This is why many Black Americans found themselves in unfair agreements of sharecropping the same plantations and farms that had just freed them, because it was all they knew and the only home many had as a resource to gain capital and upward movement.

So, is Juneteenth really a cause for celebration? Well, yes and no. No, because even in 2021, Black people in America are still dealing with the residuals of chattel slavery in every aspect of their existence and thus in many ways are still not free. None is more of a clear reality of this than the countless unfair modern racist lynching of Black folks that continue to take place far too often in this country. And on top of that, the 13th amendment to the Constitution of the United States says that individuals can still be held in slavery if they are in the prison system — a system we already know has a disproportionate number of Black people with longer sentences for similar crimes to their white counterparts. So, in many ways, the celebration of being emancipated is a luxury that has yet to be afforded.

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However, yes, we should celebrate Juneteenth as an entire country, for it is a day that marks the official end to the darkest period this country has ever known. It is the chance to shout “hooray,” even if it is fleeting, for one of the few times that Black people were given a piece of what they were entitled to as citizens of this nation. And so, even though we still battle racism, white supremacy, economic disenfranchisement, discrimination in housing, inequity in education, perpetual bigotry, racist policing, unjust laws and a painful past, we still celebrate the hope of a tomorrow where the promise of equity, equality and true liberation are perhaps achievable... or at least closer than they have ever been.

*Rev. Shanea D. Leonard, Associate, Gender & Racial Justice, Compassion, Peace & Justice, Presbyterian Mission Agency, PCUSA*

### Calendar for the Week

#### • **Sunday, June 20th**

- In-person Outdoor Worship Service at 8:30am
- Through the Bible Class at 9:45am in Kerygma Rm
- Adult Sunday School at 10:00am via Zoom
- Sunday Virtual Worship Service at 11:00am
- 3rd Sunday Virtual Luncheon at 12:30pm via Zoom

#### • **Monday, June 21th**

- Coffee in the Commons from 9:00 to 11:00am

#### • **Tuesday, June 22th**

- Prayer / Book Study Group at 12:00pm via Zoom meeting with Marjorie Buck

#### • **Thursday, June 24th**

- Coffee in the Commons from 12:00 to 2:00pm

#### • **Sunday, June 27th**

- In-person Outdoor Worship Service at 8:30am
- Through the Bible Class at 9:45am in Kerygma Rm
- Adult Sunday School at 10:00am via Zoom
- Sunday Virtual Worship Service at 11:00am
- Deacons Meeting via Zoom at 12:00pm
- Safety Team Meeting via Zoom at 2:00pm

### **Third Sunday Virtual Luncheon June 20, 2021 at 12:30pm**

As our worship services have changed, so too must our Third Sunday virtual fellowship time. Until we begin meeting again in Fellowship Hall, our Third Sunday Virtual Luncheon will take place at 12:30pm via Zoom meeting.

### **Coffee in the Commons**

We are opening the Commons Area from 9:00-11:00am on Monday mornings and from 12:00-2:00pm on Thursday afternoons for small group fellowship gathering. “Coffee in the Commons” is our way of re-introducing members and friends to the church building in scheduled, small groups. Coffee will be provided. If you’d like to schedule time to meet in small groups on either Monday mornings or Thursday afternoons, please contact the church office and we will reserve space for you. Walk-ins are also welcome.

### **Tuesday Study and Prayer Group New Book Study Starting June 22nd**

The Tuesday Study and Prayer Group will start a study of “How to Be An Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi on Tuesday, June 22. We will be combining this social justice book with a study of the spiritual discipline of prayer. We will be using “50 Ways to Pray” by Teresa A. Blythe. We meet from 12 to 1:30pm weekly on Zoom. Contact Marjorie Buck at 505 238-8075 for more information. All are welcome.

### **Jesus in the Gospels and the Koran Oasis Class for July 12, 2021 from 10-11:30am**

“Jesus in the Gospels and the Koran” is a new Zoom class being offered by Oasis Albuquerque on July 12, 2021. This lecture provides a comparative religions approach to the presentation of Jesus in the New Testament Gospels and the Islamic Koran. Our main texts are *Islam’s Jesus* by Zeki Saritoprak and *Christianity and the World Religions* by Hans Kung. This Zoom class will be taught by Rev. Dr. Frank Yates, parish associate at FPC. The virtual class will take place from 10:00—11:30am. The registration fee is \$10.00 and the class code is (71zm). To register, please visit the Oasis website at [www.oasisabq.org](http://www.oasisabq.org).

### Online Giving Options

FPC works in our ministries to reach out to members of the church and our greater community. You can send contributions by mailing checks to the church:

#### **First Presbyterian Church**

**215 Locust Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102**

You can give online at [www.firstpresabq.org](http://www.firstpresabq.org), click on the yellow “Give Online” button in the menu bar. Follow the instructions in the new window that opens to make your donations.

**MinistryOne App** Visit the App Store on your smart phone to find “Church by Ministry One.” Use this app to donate quickly and securely, as well as access our YouTube channel for videos and sermons.

At FPC, the **Elders** are a representation of the dynamic generations of our church community, comprised of members of all ages. Individually and corporately, the Elders exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of our church as well as the Christian community at large. Elders serve on selected committees within the church framework and serve faithfully as the corporate body of session.

Together with the church staff, they encourage our community of faith in worship and service of God. An Elder's living demonstration of faith and leadership empowers the church for its mission in the world. FPC is accepting new unexpired Elder positions for the next year and a half of service (August 2021 through December of 2022).

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in becoming an Elder, check the box below and return this postcard to FPC. A committee member will contact you about the position.

Yes, I am interested in an unexpired **Elder** position at First Presbyterian Church

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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First Presbyterian Church, Board of Deacons  
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