In the Lord’s name we gather together here in Santa Fe
to worship and grow in the Christian tradition,
to minister in love to all persons,
to strive for justice and peace,
to respond to God’s word.

We celebrate the heritage of Santa Fe and give
ourselves to its challenges and opportunities.

We endeavor to live in harmony with all creation
as stewards of the earth.

We share in the life and mission of the United
Church of Christ and of Christians everywhere.

To these purposes we unite and covenant with God
and one another, watchful for the guidance
of the Holy Spirit.
THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
2019 ANNUAL REPORTS
Presented June 30, 2019

“We gather as Christians to experience and share the power of God’s transforming love in our lives, our life together, and the world.”

Mission Statement of the United Church of Santa Fe


IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

MODERATOR – Bob Ansheles

STAFF REPORTS:
SENIOR MINISTER – Rev. Talitha Arnold
WORSHIP – Rev. Talitha Arnold
MUSIC DIRECTOR – Jacquelyn Helin
DIRECTOR OF THE SANCTUARY and FESTIVAL CHOIRS – Bradley Ellingboe
YOUTH MINISTRY
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY DIRECTOR – Rachel Baker

MINISTRY TEAMS:
STEWARDSHIP and FINANCE – Pamela Hyde
ADULT FAITH FORMATION
PERSONNEL MINISTRY – Wes Granberg-Michaelson
CHILDREN and YOUTH – Stephen Hamilton
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – Linda Knapp
PARISH LIFE – Nancy Merchat
Congregational Care, Fellowship and Growth Groups
OUTREACH – Karen Dailey
Immigration Task Force
PROPERTY and MAINTENANCE – David Feldt
Landscape

MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS:
2018 Annual Meeting of the Congregation
2019 Mid-Year Budget Meeting
Membership Statistical Report
Moderator’s Report
Bob Ansheles

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water
to create many ripples – Mother Theresa

A quick review of recent United Church of Santa Fe Annual Reports shows many statements on building projects. In one report we broke ground on our addition; others offered updates on the classroom project, the sign on St. Michael’s and all the beautiful landscaping work. With our dedication of the finished classrooms earlier this year, we are done with building right? Not so fast.

With the Search Committee’s recommendation and Council approval, United Church engaged Ministry Architects, a national search firm for clergy and church staff, to do an assessment of our children and youth ministry and to lead us in our search for a “Minister for Youth, Families and Children.” In March, two Ministry Architects consultants spent several days at United in conversations with Children and Youth Ministry Team members, parents and youth, staff, the Council and other stakeholders to learn more about United Church. Their 28-page assessment report on our children and youth ministry was flattering, honest and helpful.

We can be proud of our accomplishments with children and youth as noted in the report—the Youth Initiates “Journey to Adulthood” program, Intergenerational Worship and a welcoming place for children, youth and families. Ministry Architects focused on areas for improvement too. These include the lack of a cohesive plan and shared vision for the ministry, unrealistic expectations of how much can be accomplished by when, and the need for adult volunteer support.

Adult support is a key to success and we are below par in this area for our children and youth ministry. Although this is common at other churches and organizations, it is an area we must address now. And so we must build again. This time we build a supportive web of volunteers fully engaged in the programs and goals of our children and youth ministry. That requires comprehensive planning and lively recruiting.

As suggested by Ministry Architects, rather than lean on a single staff person to lead this meaningful ministry (a “superperson”), we will solicit and involve many adults too. As stated in the report, “United Church needs to rethink its current model and develop a new culture that not only invites but empowers adults from the congregation to take on a wide variety of significant roles in children and youth ministry, resulting in a web of support that is created around each young person”.

Do you want to be part of our web of support? This is your opportunity to create a ripple, to make a difference in the lives of United’s children and youth, as well as the life of our Church. Working together to build this web of support we will create an influential ministry to support the faith journey of our children, youth and families.

A small stone tossed in a pond can create ripples that grow and grow. May I ask you to prayerfully consider how a small commitment of your time and talent will have an impact on the growth of United Church. Whether you decide to dedicate a couple hours a month or a few hours a year, find your passion and be a part of our United Church web.

It has been my honor to serve as Moderator this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Ansheles, Moderator
reansheles@gmail.com
Senior Minister
Rev. Talitha Arnold

O God, beyond all praising,
We worship you today
And sing the love amazing
That songs cannot repay.

Michael Perry (1942 – 1996)

The first line of a contemporary hymn may seem an odd way to begin an Annual Report. Such documents usually focus on facts and figures, ongoing programs and new endeavors. You’ll definitely find all that and more in the reports from United’s Ministry Teams, Staff, and Task Forces that follow. But as I thought about my own report and all that has happened at United this past year, the opening verse of Michael Perry’s hymn kept echoing in my soul. This has been a year when the “God beyond all praising” has abundantly blessed us with love so amazing that even our songs cannot repay.

Even in the midst of a construction project this time last year, the church calendar was filled with ongoing events, from Sunday worship to shelter dinners, the Pride Parade to river cleanups, the “Wonders of Creation” for our kids and a potluck water fight. There was also an abundance of things like “Elevator Meeting,” “Storage Meeting,” “Drain Meeting,” as we worked to finish the new education wing. Every Sunday last summer was a moveable feast to figure out where to put the babies and toddlers, Adult Forum, Children’s Ministry, and the Drop-in Choir—all in 2 ½ rooms.

But by the grace of God and the hard work of staff and volunteers, we finished and dedicated those wonderful new rooms at the end of September. Doubling our education space has literally opened up new possibilities for ministry with children, youth, and adults. Over the past 9 months, we’ve only begun to explore the question of how—with these new spaces—God is calling us to know more deeply and share more broadly “the love amazing that songs cannot repay.”

Since September, we’ve started to answer that question in a number of ways. We engaged Ministry Architects to help us assess our current ministry of faith formation with children, youth, and families and also do the “headhunting” needed in the search for a full-time Minister/Director for this crucial ministry. We developed a new “Ministry Resident for Youth and the Environment” position and found a great candidate in the person of Emily Syal to fill it. For the first Lent ever at United, we offered not just one but four midweek study series. The recent “Faith Formation Gathering” brought together parents, Children’s and Youth Team and Council members to share our hopes and expectations for what the young people in our care will learn about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and the Bible. What does it mean to be a person of faith, trusting in the God beyond our praising whose love never ceases to amaze? That’s the focus of faith formation at United.

Worship this year also offered new ways to give thanks for and “sing that love amazing.” Through our ongoing incorporation of prayers, liturgy and music from different Christian traditions and cultures as well as other faith traditions (Jewish, Native American, Muslim), we remind ourselves that God’s love goes beyond our praising—and also beyond our culture, background, or language. We welcomed a number of guest preachers and reflectors (including our GAP Youth and Young Adventurers). We collaborated with the Albuquerque-based Coro Lux for a special “JanFest” weekend, with the music of Libby Larsen and the writings of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sometimes God’s love was manifested in ways we hadn’t planned. The Sunday after the horrific shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, United’s Festival Choir offered Bradley Ellingboe’s “Star Song.” Though the concert had been scheduled far in advance, it provided the comfort, beauty, and hope the wider Santa Fe community needed in the wake of the tragedy the day before.

God’s “love amazing” also calls us to care for and learn from the rest of creation. As outlined in the Worship report, we incorporated that call into our worship life (as well as education and service) all year. From Fiesta Sunday’s “All God’s Critters” through John Muir’s witness on Good Friday and his affirmation that “it is always sunrise somewhere” on Easter, we drew on both the book of the Bible and the book of Creation to deepen our understanding of how to love this world as God so loves. The year culminated with the blessings of the new Children’s Garden and the completion of the new Outdoor Worship Circle!

For we can only wonder,
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number,
and mercies without end.
We sought to develop new opportunities this year for **persons of all ages** to experience God’s blessings and mercies—from the GAP Youth and Tiny Dinos to the “Other Side of 75.” We definitely have gaps in that programming, particularly with younger adults, men of all ages, and parents. But we are headed in the right direction to ensure that United continues to be an intergenerational and welcoming community.

United continues to offer God’s blessings and mercies through our **ongoing outreach ministries** with Santa Fe’s shelters, public schools, Equal Exchange sales, and river cleanup. Since last summer when family separations at the border increased exponentially, we’ve taken several special offerings to provide shelter, legal aid, and advocacy for asylum-seeking refugees and their children. We also held special appeals for persons caught in climate-change disasters, from the floods in the Midwest to the California fires.

I have also sought to use my role as a **Pastor and community faith leader** to affirm that God’s mercy and blessings extend to all God’s children. “Locking Up Jesus” and “Opening the Door This Christmas” were op-eds for *The New Mexican* that offered a Biblical response to our country’s immigration policies and practices. “A Christian Response to Anti-Semitism” ran on Good Friday, which was also the eve of Passover.

This year I was asked to give the Invocation for the opening of the New Mexico State Senate, the first time in the state’s history it had not been offered by the Catholic Archbishop. As a friend said, just standing before the Senate that day in a woman’s body, with my clergy stole and turquoise cross, spoke volumes about God’s expansive and pesky love—even before I opened my mouth.

In the area of mental health and suicide prevention, I spoke at both Kaiser Permanente’s national public health gathering and also the White House-based Partnership Center’s new Task Force on Severe Mental Illness, as well as at San Diego County’s Clergy Conference on Suicide Prevention. Also this year I became a monthly panelist on KSFR’s “Forum,” where I am often the only person raising questions about poverty, the environment, race, gender, or orientation in the conversation. Similarly, with the national Partnership Center work, I’ve been the only ordained woman and non-Evangelical Christian around the table, a significant change from three years ago.

I share these two examples to underscore how crucial it is for **all of us** as people with a progressive Christian faith to find and use our voices in this challenging time. Now more than ever, if we are silent, God’s mercies and blessings will not be known by people who are poor or refugees, persons of color or LGBTQ persons. Nor will this good earth continue to offer its blessing of life unless we call for mercy for all creation.

The hymn that began this report ends with these lines:

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Whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we’ll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.
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Like the composer Michael Perry, we don’t know what tomorrow will bring for the United Church of Santa Fe, this world or in our own lives. What we do know is that this past year brought us a multitude of reasons to marvel at God’s beauty and glory in God’s ways. Each day—even the hard or sad ones—brought reason to rise and bless God still, because we went through those hard days together.

What we also know is that the God who has been faithful and present through United’s 39 years will continue to be faithful and present through all our tomorrows. The One in whom we have our trust is the One who will continue to send “blessings without number and mercies without end,” no matter what the future brings.

I also know that this past year would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of many people, including those whose reports are in this Annual Report. I give thanks to all of them and all of you. It has been a gift to work with Moderator Bob Ansheles and the Church Council this year. They’ve worked hard on your behalf, with deep faith, care, thoughtfulness and a lot of laughter.

Similarly, it is my privilege and joy to work with the United Church Staff: Lin Raymond, Jacquelyn Helin, Bradley Ellingboe, Rachel Baker, Carrie McCabe, David LaPlantz, Rebecca Griego, Edith Solis, Sally Greenall, Monika Bialostocka, Yasmeen Lookman, Nicole Lopez, Jonathan Davidson, Gerald Bennett, and Joyce Pohl. Each of them offered abundant gifts and skills. I am grateful for their collegiality and commitment, personally and on behalf of the whole congregation. Each of them, along with all of you, made our shared ministry “a joyful duty” throughout the year.

Most of all, I give thanks to the One who has made this year and all years possible, the One who fills our lives and the life of our Church with blessings and mercies, beauty and glory. Thanks be to God, the One beyond all praising. Blessings, Talitha
Senior Minister – National and Community Involvement:

1. **Preaching and Worship Leadership:**
   a. “Longing for Cucumbers,” sermon and commentary for *Day1*, nationwide preaching radio program.
   b. Opening of the New Mexico Senate—Opening prayer and Chaplain for the Day.
   d. Preacher for Vespers during Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, St. Bede’s Episcopal Church.
   e. Prayer for the “Gathering for Peace” on the Plaza, Fiesta weekend.
   f. Invocation for dedication of United Way Children’s Center.
   g. Blessing of the Chapel designed by Santero Juanito Jimenez.

2. **Mental Health Ministries:**
   a. Founding member of National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention; co-led Faith Communities Task Force until 2018.
   b. White House convocations on Faith Communities and Severe Mental Illness, sponsored by U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services and U.S. Partnership Center.
   c. Presentations on “Faith Communities and Mental Health/Suicide Prevention” for Kaiser Permanente national staff (Washington, D.C.), San Diego County Faith Leaders Conference; St. Vincent Hospital.

3. **Advocacy and Media:**
   b. “Locking Up Jesus,” “A Christian Response to Anti-Semitism” (for Good Friday and first day of Passover); “Opening the Door This Christmas” (La Posada and refugees)—op-eds for *The Santa Fe New Mexican*.
   d. Participated in Sojourners National Summit on Faith and Justice.
   e. New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light—Environmental Panel.
   f. NM Legislative Hearing on Energy Conversion.

4. **Interfaith:**
   a. St. Francis Cathedral Pet Blessing.
   b. Interfaith Seder with Santa Maria de la Paz and Temple Beth Shalom.
   c. Services of Remembrance at Temple Beth Shalom, following violence at synagogues across the country.
   d. Panelist for Upaya Zen Center’s “Pastoral Care and Ministry.”

5. **Santa Fe Desert Chorale:**
   a. “Sing for the Earth” (PowerPoint presentation on Biblical understandings of creation, coordinated with DC quartet.
   b. “Singing under the Dome of Heaven” (two presentations, one with Fr. John Bethancourt, on music and architecture of Christian Orthodox and African American faith traditions).

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**Worship**

Rev. Talitha Arnold

*June 2018 – Open to the Spirit’s Power*

As a season, Pentecost isn’t as well known as Advent or Lent, and unlike Christmas or Easter, Pentecost has yet to be discovered by Hallmark cards and Walgreens. But in the Christian calendar, Pentecost is the longest season—and a powerful time, provided we let ourselves be open to that Spirit. In worship this first month of Pentecost, we explored “making room for God” through listening, reconciling, and being fit!

*July and August 2018 – Called to What?*

What does it mean to be a person of faith? Is it belief in a certain doctrine or creed? Or is it a willingness to be open to a relationship with this mystery and power we call God—which also means being in relationship with others? We explored the Apostle Paul’s letters to the early churches of Corinth and Ephesus and his affirmation of what it meant to be called by God into faith—as individuals and in our life together as a church, a nation, a world.
From the Earth to the Stars – September 2018 - May 2019
From September’s Fiesta Sunday to May’s Children’s and Youth Service, we explored how God speaks to us through both the Bible and the book of all Creation.

September and October 2018 – God’s Star Stories
“From Construction Dust to Star Dust” (Genesis’ story of the first humans created from the “humus” aka earth.) “Reach for the Stars—but lay a good foundation.” (The Tower of Babel) Psalms that sing of all creation. Different people born under the same stars. Visions of angels and heavenly ladders. Like light, water, and earth, God comes to us through the stars in the heavens to teach us about faith, hope, and love.

November 2018 – From the Stars to the Earth
We explored stories of finding God in the desert, setting up “stones of thanks” and finding one’s way in the wilderness. November had a Service of Remembrance of the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI and ended with our “Thanks-singing” celebration.

Advent and Christmas 2018 – Light in our Darkness, Love in this World
Through the songs of old Zechariah and young Mary, we explored how God’s Light came into the world, who carried that Light, and how we can carry that Light, too.

Epiphany 2019 – The Waters of New Life
Epiphanies are experiences of new life, so water is a symbol of the season. In the waters of Jesus’ baptism, people saw God doing a new thing through him. The Psalmist promised that God’s love is “deeper than the sea.” On Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, world-renowned composer Libby Larsen shared how music helps us experience God’s justice “rolling down like waters.” Throughout the season, we proclaimed God’s love “washing over us,” helping us stand “sturdy against the storm” and walking “up the rough side of the mountain” (with the help of the Andy Kingston Mardi Gras Jazz Trio).

Lent 2019 – Creation on the Cross
Years ago in Santa Fe, a local artist caused an uproar with her portrayal of the Crucifixion, not with Jesus but a gorilla on the cross. She wanted to symbolize our destruction not only of other human beings, but other species and the planet as a whole. The scriptures for Lent also confronted us with our responsibility for the crucifixion of creation and called us to repentance—turning to the ways of life for all.

Palm Sunday through Holy Week to Easter 2018 – It’s Always Sunrise Somewhere!
The holy dirt of Chimayo and the writings of conservationist John Muir, along the powerful story and music of Holy Week, led us deep into the shadows Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. John Muir’s proclamation that “it’s always sunrise somewhere” was also the theme for Easter morning!

Eastertide 2019 – Living into New Life
United We Run, Children’s and Youth Sunday, Memorial Day Sunday. Worship after Easter highlighted ways God offers us new life through our life together and the life we offer others.

Special Services (Summer 2018 - Spring 2019):
- A Festival of All Creation! Fiesta Sunday! (Sept. 1)
- St. Francis Sunday and Blessing of the Animals (Oct. 7—in Community Room due to rain)
- Starting with the Earth: 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI (Sunday, Nov. 11)
- “Thanks-singing!” Thanksgiving Sunday (Nov. 18)
- All Loveliness New-born: Advent Lessons and Carols (Dec. 18)
- Christmas Eve (3 different services!)
- Yet to Be Revealed: Epiphany Pageant (Jan. 6)
- Up the Rough Side of the Mountain: Mardi Gras Sunday (Mar. 3, Andy Kingston Trio)
- Ashes of our Own Making: Ash Wednesday (Mar. 6)
- Even the Stones Would Cry Out: Palm Sunday (Apr. 14)
- Maundy Thursday with Tenebrae led by GAP Youth (Apr.18)
- Good Friday: The Witness of John Muir and the Witness from the Cross (Apr. 19)
- Easter Sunday: It’s Always Sunrise Somewhere! (April 21—3 services)
- United We Run Sunday (May 6)
- A New Heaven and a New Earth: Children’s, Youth, Graduation Sunday (May 19, 20+ youth liturgists, readers, musicians)
- They Will All Dream! Pentecost Sunday (June 9, Rev. Ben Larzelere)
Guest Worship Leaders and Preachers:

Worship Leaders: Rev. Betsy Bueschel, Jennifer Graves and Larry Rasmussen
Preachers: Composer Libby Larsen, Larry Rasmussen; Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson, Rev. Ben Larzelere
Reflectors: Steve Hamilton, Frank Wilbanks, Young Adventurers and GAP Youth

With many thanks to all who make worship beautiful and meaningful every Sunday:

- Music Director, Pianist, and Early Choir Director Jacquelyn Helin; Sanctuary and Festival Choir Director Bradley Ellingboe; Kids Choir Directors Monika Bialostocka and Bruce Turnquist; all the choirs; and musicians of all kinds and ages!
- The Sacred Space Team (Nyla Rasmussen, Donna Clark, Debbie Maloney, Jennifer Kilbourn, Karin Anderson)
- Greeters and their Organizers: Connie Maldegen (8:30); Linda Knapp (late service)
- Readers and Liturgists, including our GAP Youth and Young Adventurers
- Sexton David LaPlantz who sets the Sanctuary every Sunday
- Office Administrator Lin Raymond who organizes and prepares all the bulletins
- Nancy Merchat who arranges the Community Room and the Sunday Setter-uppers who set up coffee and cookies (the real Communion!)

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Music Director and Pianist
Jacquelyn Helin

It's been another great year for music at United! We consciously integrate music into worship; music is chosen to enhance the liturgical seasons, scripture readings, and sermon topics. I always appreciate hearing from members of the congregation how the entire service at United comes together to create a deep and seamless worship experience. That's truly what we're striving for.

Between our committed choir members and other church musicians, as well as guest musicians, United's services are full of wonderful music. I'm always struck with how you as a congregation love to sing and are open to all kinds of sacred music. United has a great reputation in Santa Fe for the excellence of its music. As Music Director, I feel personally responsible for continuing to develop that reputation. I'm particularly happy to provide young musicians a place to play and be a part of worship as they develop their musical and performing abilities.

CHOIRS

All the Choirs—The Early Morning, Sanctuary, and Kids Choirs—are a major part of worship. During Advent/Christmas and Holy Week/Easter seasons, we combine members of the choirs, as well as other interested singers from the church and wider community, in our “Festival Choir.” Last October, the United Festival Choir also sang Bradley Ellingboe’s Star Song with Seth Hartwell, tenor, and 8 instrumentalists.

The 8:30 Early Choir, a growing group of 25 voices under my direction, sings twice a month, with repertoire ranging from high church to gospel. Many in the group travel a great deal, but all the singers sing whenever they are in town!

The 11:00 Sanctuary Choir, led by Bradley Ellingboe, has grown to 36 voices. They sing weekly with a repertoire including chant, classical, gospel, and anthems composed by Brad. Thanks to an anonymous grant, the paid Choral Scholars program supplements the Sanctuary and Festival Choirs. Soprano Rebecca Brunette sang through 2018 but resigned due to other work commitments, and we welcomed Nicole Lopez. Mezzo Yasmeen Lookman sang all year. Since January, we’ve welcomed Tenor Jonathan Davidson and Baritone Gerald Bennett. All four offered numerous solos and helped their sections. Both Yasmeen and Jonathan conducted the choirs in Brad’s or my absence.

The Kids Choir (K’s - 4th), led by Monika Bialostocka and Bruce Turnquist, sang regularly in the 11:00 service.

The Summer Drop-in Choir, led by Brad, is a chance for singers to rehearse on Sunday mornings, then sing for the service. It's very successful, with ongoing choir members, visitors, and many others!
SPECIAL MUSIC
In special concerts and services, we presented these exceptional offerings:

- Santa Fe Opera Apprentices (each Sunday in the 10:00 service during Opera Season)
- Choral Weekend and Concert with famed American composer Libby Larsen over Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend—a joint presentation of United with Coro Lux, directed by Brad and narrated by Talitha.
- Doane College Choir in concert
- Guest singers and instrumentalists included Seth Hartwell, tenor; Danielle Garcia and Sofia Frumkin, flute; Kristen Thelander, French horn; Luiz Barrionuevo, violin; Wayne Thelander, cello & double bass; Anne Eisfeller, harp; Tristan Frank and Jeff Piper, trumpet; Jeff Sussmann, percussion; and youth pianists Presley Gao and Kayden Kelly.
- Guest choral composer and pianist John Helgen
- Mara Matteson, guest Children’s and Family/Friends Drop-in Choir conductor
- Bradley Ellingboe’s Star Song, a benefit performance for the Santa Fe Watershed Association
- Festival Choir for Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, and Holy Week
- Twelve United Youth musicians who played or sang in the Children’s and Youth Sunday, May 19.
- Talitha Arnold offered three collaborations with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale: “Singing Under the Dome of Heaven” on sacred music and sacred space (offered twice, once with Fr. John Bethancourt) and “All Creation Sings” as preparation for the Chorale’s “Sure on This Shining Night” program. United Church and Talitha were also honored at the Chorale’s Gala last summer.
- In addition, we welcomed four musical groups on Sunday mornings in both services:
  - Santa Fe Men’s Camerata, directed by Allan Green, Jan. 27.
  - Andy Kingston Jazz Trio for Mardi Gras Sunday, Mar. 3 (Andy Kingston, piano; Mark Clark, percussion; Justin Bransford, bass; special guests Madelyn and Nathan Kingston).
  - The Zia Singers, under the direction of Aaron Howe, Apr. 28.
  - Members of Coro Lux and other community members, along with composer Libby Larsen, in special services for Martin Luther King Jr., Sunday, Jan. 20.
- Guest Musicians from the congregation included: Choral Scholars Rebecca Brunette, Nicole Lopez, Yasmeen Lookman, Jonathan Davidson, and Gerald Bennett; Sanctuary Choir Director Bradley Ellingboe; Instrumentalists Jessica Smucker, violin; Allie Norris, viola; Andy Kingston, piano; and David Darby, percussion. Guest Youth Musicians: Erika Kelemen and Ethan Manske, voice; Luci Cassidy-Jones, viola; Jaden Rand and Jack Smucker, cello; Hela Kelemen, double bass; Lasse Hadewig, flute; Makayla Darby, clarinet; and Nathan Kingston, saxophone.
- Angela Gabriel, Amy Greer, and Karen Parsons as Substitute Pianists on Sundays I was away.
- For the fourth year, United hosted Santa Fe Desert Chorale’s Santa Fe Sings!, a community outreach event (May 18). This year, I was collaborative pianist, working with Director Joshua Habermann.

SUMMER OPERA APPRENTICES
Thanks to an anonymous donor, we have our sixth series with an Opera Apprentice for the 10:00 service (Jul. 21-Aug. 25). The program enriches summer worship and draws newcomers (from Santa Fe and out of town) to United, with advertising in various venues (thanks to volunteer designer Russ Rountree and Impressions Advertising). Summer attendance has increased 20% since the program started in 2013.

PIANO MUSIC
I think of the Prelude and Postlude as part of worship. Along with the music of J.S. Bach through Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, I like to concentrate on one composer or style of composers throughout a month to allow deeper exploration of a musical style. Featured composers this year included Albéniz, Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Grieg, Haydn, Marianelli, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Poulenc, Rachmaninoff, Schumann and Scriabin. I also played works by American composers Bernstein, Copland, Roy Harris, and Canadian Leonard Cohen, and Mark Hayes’ arrangements of African American spirituals.

PIANO
This May, we put new hammers on the Steinway B in the Sanctuary. This significant—and badly needed—maintenance was covered by our piano maintenance endowment fund. I look forward to breaking them in and the beautiful sound we will all enjoy as a result! The piano and Sanctuary are used by Santa Fe’s musical community for recitals and competitions. These events are a source of income and a testament to the quality of the piano and the Sanctuary space. Performing organizations that use the piano also pay for the tuning of the piano. Smaller organizations contribute toward a piano maintenance fund, necessary to afford maintenance and regulation of the piano beyond regular tunings.
Thanks to my colleagues here at the church—Talitha Arnold, Bradley Ellingboe, Rachel Baker, David LaPlantz, and Lin Raymond. Thanks also to Music Librarian, Jody Spalding, for her hours of volunteer time keeping the choir music organized! Thanks to the members of all the choirs as well as the many members and friends who have offered special music throughout this year—I am deeply grateful to all of you for your ongoing commitment to United and what you bring to the musical life of the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacquelyn Helin

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**Director of the Sanctuary and Festival Choirs**
Bradley Ellingboe

Shakespeare once said, “Brevity is the soul of wit.” By that measure, I’ll try to make this report slightly “wittier” than last year’s.

As my fourth year at United draws to a close, what I said last year remains true. Namely, it’s been my experience that it takes about five years to get any choir to sound the way I’d like it to. And we continue making progress on all aspects of choral singing.

The Choral Scholars program continues to be a blessing to the Sanctuary Choir and to the whole music program. We have weathered some changes in personnel and added Nicole Lopez as soprano and Jonathan Davidson as tenor. Yasmeen Lookman continues as alto and in April we added Gerald Bennett as bass, so now we have a full quartet! Their musical skills and beautiful voices have raised the quality of our singing and their availability for various solos has been a blessing to everyone.

The Sanctuary Choir continues to combine with members of the Early Choir and other singers during the Advent/Christmas and Holy Week/Easter seasons to offer our voices together. In addition to our joint work for the high festivals of the church year, we had two special choral projects. One was the presentation of my oratorio *StarSong* last October, which was in keeping with the congregation’s year-long emphasis on environmental issues. The second was in collaboration with my Albuquerque chorus, *Coro Lux*, and was a January choral workshop and festival celebrating the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This event drew about 90 singers from across northern New Mexico, not least because of the presence of our internationally known guest composer Libby Larsen.

In last year’s report I mentioned how members of the Sanctuary Choir had started to work together at times with *Coro Lux*, including our trip in June of 2018 to a choral festival in Florence, Italy. A highlight of that trip was our chance to work with the world-famous choral composer John Rutter. And from that festival trip we garnered a new member of the Sanctuary Choir at United. Indeed, the Sanctuary Choir now has 36 active singers on its roster. Up about 60% from 2015!

I see my job as both musician and pastor. By training and inclination, I cannot help but strive for musical excellence. Conversely, the choir is made up of volunteers who face the same issues we all do—joys and sorrows, travel and family, work and health—but in an environment where we see each other twice a week to work on music, which brings feelings to the fore. For all my jocularity, I take my role very seriously, striving always to create anthems that are integrated with the day’s message and worth listening to, while still being cognizant of the emotional state of the members of the choir. As I once heard the great conductor Robert Shaw say: “I’ve never quite gotten it right ... but I want to keep trying.”

Thanks for letting me continue to try. And my deepest thanks to Talitha, Jacquelyn and Lin, as well as to Jody Spalding for her work as choir librarian.

Respectfully submitted,
Bradley Ellingboe
Youth Ministry

The United Church of Santa Fe continued its strong commitment to ministry with youth (5th grade through high school), despite the challenge of staff vacancies. All programs provide a safe and supportive environment in which youth can explore and grow in their faith. Abundant thanks to “GAP Year” Youth Leader Becky Crutchfield and Children’s Ministry Director Rachel Baker (who led the Young Adventurers and started “Tiny Dinos”).

GAP Year Youth

Twelve middle school kids—all in the same room! What a great group, on threshold of beginning their “Journey to Adulthood.” They were well-led by Rebecca Crutchfield for a second year. Every Sunday, they explored the same scriptures and themes of adult worship; engaged in a number of “hands-on” projects (both art and service); and helped lead worship, including Maundy Thursday Tenebrae.

Young Adventurers

A small but engaged group of older elementary kids formed the new Young Adventurers, getting ready for the next stage of life. Led by Rachel Baker, they also explored the adult scriptures and themes, with occasional guest presenters and several service projects.

“Tiny Dinos”

Organized by Rachel Baker during the 10:00 hour, the Tiny Dinos (5th graders and older) did a number of service projects (making garden kits to raise funds for One Great Hour and raising additional funds for The Kids Corner for asylum-seeking families in Albuquerque).

Joint Programs

Throughout the year, the Youth Initiates and Young Adventurers shared leadership as liturgists and musicians in several All-Church Worship Services, including the Outdoor St. Francis Pet Blessing, Thanks-singing Service, Advent Lessons and Carols, the Epiphany Pageant, Easter, and Children’s and Youth Sunday.

Looking to the Future

United Church has the potential to offer three youth groups. In addition to the next round of Youth Initiates and Young Adventurers, we have five high school students (Youth Initiation Graduates). They will be part of the United community for 3-4 more years. As anyone who can remember their high school experience, a lot of growth happens between freshman and senior year. United needs to be intentionally involved in their lives. Thanks to the current building project, we have the space for all three groups. And thanks to the new “Ministry Resident” program, we have staff leadership for both the Youth Initiates and the High School youth this coming year as Emily Syal joins United.

Thanks also to the vision and work of the Search Committee, Personnel Team and Council—in coordination with Ministry Architects—we are actively looking for the additional staff leadership we need. We also need the prayers and support of all of you, members and friends of United. Keep our youth and the search process in your deep prayers. Young people in Santa Fe need what the United Church offers. And we need the congregational involvement and web of volunteers to keep offering it! Thank you.

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Children’s Ministry Director

Rachel Baker

2018-2019 Sunday Morning Curricula: During the school year, I (Rachel) along with elementary teacher Monika Bialostocka and volunteer Master Teacher Bruce Turnquist planned specific lessons and activities to coincide with the adult sermon topics. During the 8:30 service, Carrie McCabe offered a program for 2nd graders and younger in the Nurture Center with a Bible story and related activities. During the later service, Carrie offered a preschool class.

2018 Summer Children’s Ministry: The program focused on Creation, exploring a different Psalm each Sunday followed by a science-based activity related to the lesson. We did not have a summer service project, as the church was very busy and focused on the new building construction!
Staff: I continued in my role as Children’s Ministry Director, while also taking on the Young Adventurer class, starting the Tiny Dinos Youth Group, and leading some youth activities and planning. Edith Solis-Gutierrez helped with the Children’s Choir, Tiny Dinos, Preschool, Elementary, and Young Adventurer classes. Monika Bialostocka taught the Elementary class and Kids Choir (4-6 early elementary children) and was joined by Bruce Turnquist as Mentor. Carrie McCabe continued as Preschool Teacher and Rebecca Griego as Nursery Childcare Staff. The “Baby Rockers” volunteer program continues to assist with infant and toddler care, with two volunteers, Robert Spitz and Lasse Hadewig, making up the bulk of the help. Sally Greenall subs for Rebecca as needed.

Children’s Participation in Worship: Preschoolers through 8th graders start the 11:00 Worship Service with the adults and older youth, staying through the time of greeting and regathering. Each Sunday often includes a time of “Singing with Children.” In addition, a number of services throughout the year were intergenerational, designed to include the children and youth in worship and leadership (Fiesta Sunday, St. Francis Pet Blessing, Thanksgiving Sunday, Advent Lessons and Carols, Epiphany Sunday, Mardi Gras, Easter and Children’s and Youth Sunday). The Children’s Choir, with leadership from Monika Bialostocka and Bruce Turnquist, rehearsed at 10:00 on Sundays, and provided music for the service twice a month. The Youth Choir was disbanded until the church finds another choir teacher. Youth and children also served as Liturgists and Readers throughout the year.

Children’s Ministry Liturgy: Children’s worship in the various classrooms began with a short meditation, often the “breathing in” of God’s Peace, Hope, and Love, followed by a prayer or memory verse and a Bible story, often told with storytelling figures and through drama; conversation about the story and its connections to children’s lives—through “I wonder” questions; and artistic responses to the story. The children enjoyed hearing the same scripture their parents were hearing in church.

Attendance: Nursery attendance averaged 1.6 children per Sunday, as we have fewer infants and toddlers in the congregation than in the past. In Lent, Pre-school attendance averaged 3.5 children, slightly down from last year, as a number of children moved into the Elementary class. We also welcomed many visitors and friends throughout the year. Elementary attendance averaged 5 children per class, down slightly from last year. Yet, attendance has been steady and we’ve been able to do some longer over-arching projects this year. The elementary group gets along well and is quite energetic. Young Adventurer attendance averaged 2.75 youth per class.

This year we started a 10:00 youth group for youth 5th grade and older, led by Rachel Baker and Edith Solis-Gutierrez. The “Tiny Dinos” explored God’s Creation, worked on service projects, and began a campaign to reduce single-use plastic at the church. They are currently raising money for asylum-seeking children at the Santa Fe Kids Corner.

Service Projects: During the St. Nick’s Breakfast, children and adults filled 88 gift bags, made cards for the residents of the St. Elizabeth Shelter, and brought 50 presents for the children of Casa Familia. We also purchased gifts for the teens at the shelter. For the eighth year, a group of children and adults caroled at El Castillo, led by Talitha. In Lent children made garden kits from donated egg cartons to sell for OGHS, raising $410. A few ran in the United We Run/Walk Fundraiser. The children gathered 60 pounds of healthy snacks to be distributed to needy local children by The Food Depot (up from 25 pounds last year)! The Sunday after Thanksgiving, they decorated cookies and took them to the Fire Station on Arroyo Chamisco across St. Michael’s.

Families and Friends Fun Events: These were successful again this year. They included a water-fight potluck last July, the “Start of School Potluck Cookout,” a Halloween Games and Potluck, St. Nick’s Breakfast, and a Board Game Night. Attendance varied from 20 – 60 (children, youth, adults). Parish Life Chair Nancy Merchat volunteered her talents to decorate the tables.

Prayer Child Program: This is reorganized at the beginning of the school year. There are over 50 children and youth being prayed for, each matched with an adult in the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Baker
Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team
Chair: Pamela Hyde

Team: Pamela Hyde (Chair), Sam Elkind (Treasurer), Bob Ansheles (Council Moderator), Dave Bueschel (Endowment Trustees Chair), Judy Gresham, Trudy Swint, Rev. Talitha Arnold (ex-officio). In addition, Ernest Godlove serves as Financial Secretary managing the offering counters schedule and process.

Stewardship: The 2019 Stewardship Campaign for the Church’s operating budget was an ambitious $510,000 which we met with 199 pledges totaling $512,579. Thanks be to God! Thirty-three new pledges and 65 increased pledges offset 60 pledges decreased or not renewed (usually due to people moving). For every gift great and small, United is grateful.

A highlight of the campaign was the All-Church Dinner on Nov. 11, 2018 at Cristo Rey Catholic Church attended by 150+ adults, youth, and children. Stewardship Chair Bob Ansheles did exceptional effort leading the campaign for the 2019 budget year. Parish Life Chair Nancy Merchat and a team of eleven volunteers organized a fun and productive event for the eighth year. Fifteen volunteers served as Table Hosts, plus two staff/volunteers hosted the children/youth ministry table. Table discussions were held about what United’s ministries and services mean to those in attendance as a way to anchor the pledges turned in at the dinner as well as get to know one another better. Throughout the fall, other volunteers helped with mailings and spoke in worship services about why they pledge to United. Another highlight was the “Get Acquainted Brunch,” hosted by Trudy Swint and Cindy Knox, that brought together new comers and ongoing United leaders.

Thanks to the success of the campaign, we can underwrite United’s priorities for outreach and community engagement, children and youth, environmental ministries, music, and pastoral care, along with our commitment to staff compensation at levels that are competitive, commensurate with experience, and the cost of living in Santa Fe. We also set aside just over $60,000 as a placeholder in the 2019 budget for recruitment and pay for staff to fill vacant positions.

This year, the Team worked to assure adequate funding is available or reserved for anticipated expenditures for the building and landscape construction projects, Operating Reserve (now about $300,000, representing a six-month reserve), Building/Capital Reserve (just over $50,000) and Senior Pastor Sabbatical Reserve ($40,000). The Team’s Stewardship Subcommittee, chaired by Bob Ansheles, with Trudy Swint and Dave Bueschel along with the Senior Minister, wrote Legacy Corner paragraphs for each of United’s monthly newsletters as well as continued planning for in-home and in-church forum discussions and information for the congregation and the wider community to learn ways to support the ministries of United through tools such as legacy gifts or bequests. Gifts of appreciated stock and other investment funds have begun to be received from some pledgers/givers, and some are letting us know when they include the Church in their wills. The Subcommittee is also developing a year-long giving calendar and considering ways to encourage newer techniques such as online giving and use of kiosks. Two adult forums for the congregation to learn more about United’s funds and budget were also held this past year.

Building Expansion/Grounds Projects and Bequests: The environmental conservation/landscape project and building expansion, including the new classrooms, and new front wall and sign, were completed in 2018 and dedicated on September 23. These projects were made possible due in large part to generous bequests received in previous years from the estates of Ann Rutledge and June and Jack Smith. Commitments and expenditures from these and other sources (for example, approximately $100,000 in donations for the elevator and other special building and landscape needs) resulted in a total expenditure of just over $1.4 million over the last two years. Council has now approved use of the bequest from the estate of Dell Ohning ($119,600) for redevelopment of the outdoor worship and children’s space, which is now underway. The Church’s reserves and other funds (approximately $693,000 as of the end of May 2019) continue to be invested in safe accounts with the United Church Cornerstone Fund which provides a good return on investment while assuring cash will be available when it is needed.

Endowment: United’s Endowment Trustees are Chair Dave Bueschel (through end of 2021), Caroline Burnett (through end of 2020), Ed Barker (through end of 2019), and voting ex officio members Council Moderator Bob Ansheles and Treasurer Sam Elkind. Senior Minister Talitha Arnold also serves as a non-voting ex officio member. The Chair convenes the Trustees as needed and leads the Trustees in their annual review of the investment manager and strategies for the Fund to assure these funds are growing at a reasonable pace while not being unduly at risk. The Trustees’ Chair also works with the S&F Team Chair to calculate the Maximum Allowable Payout (MAP) from the Endowment in any given year. The MAP from three of the seven specified funds within the Endowment is utilized.
for operating budget needs consistent with each fund’s purpose and Council’s and the congregation’s budget approval process. MAP from the other four funds can be used pursuant to each of their Council specified purposes as needed. MAP is calculated at the end of each year as a percentage of each specified fund plus remaining unexpended MAP from prior years. The MAP for 2019 was determined to be $65,006 with $35,000 of that amount budgeted for 2019 operating purposes. We received special Endowment gifts this year from a former United member and from the estate of United member Pat Dean. As of the end of May, 2019, the market value of the Endowment’s seven specified funds was approximately $1.425 million, which continues to be invested in a moderate balanced fund managed by United Church Funds.

Administration: Due in part to staff vacancies, a significant part of the work of overseeing United’s complex finances and other administrative needs have fallen to the Senior Minister and Administrative Assistant Lin Raymond with able assistance from United’s part time CPA (Joyce Pohl). The CPA continues to provide the Senior Minister, the S&F Team, and Council with consistent financial reports and input regarding various accounts, designated funds, and endowment and bequest funding. A part time staffer to assist with various administrative functions was budgeted for 2019.

The S&F Team Chair works with the CPA, Endowment Trustee Chair, Treasurer, and Senior Minister to track and report on earnings, appreciation, available payouts, and uses of bequest, investment, and endowment funding. Thanks to the Personnel Team as they advise regarding personnel costs, especially as recruitment for key vacant personnel positions continues. A special thanks to Treasurer Sam Elkind for monthly reports on the status of operating funds compared to budget; to Bob Ansheles for heading up the Stewardship Subcommittee; to Dave Bueschel for able leadership of the Endowment Trustees, to Judy Gresham and Trudy Swint for help with various S&F Team tasks; and to Ernest Godlove who serves in the role of Financial Secretary to assure counters are scheduled to account properly for the many gifts, pledges, and offerings each Sunday. Regular counters include Ernest, Ann Barker, Dave Bueschel, Dana Hollifield, Joe and Christy Jones, and Phil Laughlin.

We can be proud of the financial health and moral initiatives of this congregation which, by its generous support, ensures that our shared ministries continue to grow and make a difference in the life of this community and in the world, well into the future. We thank God for making this happen.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hyde

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ADULT FAITH FORMATION
Sunday Adult Forums

July and August:
• A Week in WWI (Dr. Donald Zillman, University of Maine Law School)
• Future Faith (Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson)
• What Makes Music Sacred? (T. Arnold, B. Ellingboe, J. Helin)
• Saving Central Park (Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, founder of Central Park Conservancy)
• Immigration Sanctuary (SF Interfaith Network for Immigration Justice)
• Music presentation (youth pianist Kaden Kelly, student of Jacquelyn Helin)
• Sacred Ground, Sacred Journey: Israel and Jordan (Tom Merchat and Talitha Arnold)
• What’s Ahead for United’s Youth?

September:
• Fiesta Brunch
• DEDICATION OF NEW EDUCATION WING!!!!
• Creation Care (Rev. Andrew Black, National Wildlife Federation)

October:
• All Creatures Great and Small (Jane Carson, Karen Kleeman)
• Creating “Star Song” (Brad Ellingboe)
• Everything You always Wanted to know about United’s Finances (but were afraid to ask) (Finance Ch. Pam Hyde, Moderator Bob Ansheles, Finance Team members)
• Groundswell: Indigenous Wisdom and Climate Change (Mary Hasbah Roessel, Joe Neidhardt)

November:
• 100 Years after the War to End All Wars
• What Have We Learned? 100th Anniversary of World War I (Veterans Panel: Pete Bolton, Col. Jane Carson, David Feldt, Jim Maloney)
• Water Ways (Blanca Surgeon)
• What Does Our Faith Require? How Do We Develop the Resiliency These Times Demand?
• Keeping the Holidays while Keeping Your Sanity
• Report from Honduras (Blanca and Bina Surgeon)

December:
• NM Immigration Law Center
• Report from Iraq (Talitha Arnold)

January:
• A Look at the Legislative Session (with Ruth Hoffman, Executive Director of the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry)
• Newcomer Orientation Brunch
• Libby Larsen (Internationally known composer)

February:
• Congregational Budget Meeting
• Outreach Volunteer Fair
• Waters of Hope: Parts 1 and 2 (Blanca Surgeon)

March:
• Mardi Gras Brunch
• Sr. Joan Brown of NM Interfaith Power and Light
• A Call to Prayer and Fasting (Sojourners co-founder Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson)

April:
• Turning Towards Truth: Resurrection Stories of John’s Gospel (Owen Gemmer)
• Talking with Kids about Lent and Easter
• Groundswell: (Joe Neidhardt and Mary Hasbah Roessel)
• Laura Paskus, Environmental Journalist

May:
• Update on Staff Searches
• United’s 39th Birthday Party

June:
• Youth and Children Faith Formation (Children’s and Youth Ministry Team)
• Blessing of the Kid’s Garden
OTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

LENTEN ACADEMY (Multiple sessions on Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings, and Thursdays at noon)
- **Love God. Love Neighbor. Love Creation** (Larry Rasmussen—offered 2x/week)
- **New Eyes and Fresh Vision: Retraining Our Brains** (April and Marcom Herren)
- **Turning Towards Truth: Resurrection Stories of John’s Gospel** (Owen Gemmer, offered 2x/week)
- **Back to the Garden: Toni Morrison and Alice Walker** (Talitha Arnold)

Special Offerings (PowerPoint lectures)
- **Sing for Creation** (Talitha Arnold & Desert Chorale Quartet, August 2018)
- **Will the Real Mary Magdalene Please Stand Up?** (Talitha Arnold)
- **Singing Under the Dome of Heaven: Music and Architecture of the Christian Orthodox and African American Traditions** (Talitha Arnold with Desert Chorale)
- **All Saints Movie Day: Coco!**
- **The Men and Women of the Christmas Story** (3-part study series)

Mental Health and the Church series:
- **Aging and Memory** (Dr. Caroline Kingston, Dr. Debra Bendis, Rev. Talitha Arnold)
- **When the Holidays are Different**—for persons following the death of a loved one, a move, a divorce, job change, or other loss (Congregational Care Team—offered twice)
- **Finding Peace in an Age of Anxiety** ((Dr. Caroline Kingston, Dr. Debra Bendis, Rev. Talitha Arnold)

Retreats (Saturday mornings):
- **The Power of Gratitude** – November
- **Turning Toward the Morning** – Advent Retreat
- **What’s Love Got to Do with It?** – Valentine’s Day Retreat

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Personnel Team
Chair: Wes Granberg-Michaelson

Team: Susan Lear, Sherry Kelsey, Deb McElroy, Charlie Probert, Talitha Arnold (ex-officio)
Search Committee: Wes Granberg-Michaelson (Chair), Amy Aalberts, Bob Ansheles (Moderator), Jack Lain, John Shaffer, Talitha Arnold (ex-officio)

Keeping the faith in the midst of change...

Since last summer, we have said farewell to two Choral Scholars (Rebecca Brunette and Michael Rascon) and hello to three new ones (Jonathan Davidson, Gerald Bennett, and Nicole Lopez). Last fall, we hired Sally Greenall as a substitute Nurture Center Caregiver (for when Rebecca Griego is absent due to family needs and her Legislative work), and also renewed one-year contracts of GAP Youth Teacher Rebecca Crutchfield and Elementary Teacher/Kids Choir Director Monika Bialostocka. In January 2019, volunteer Bruce Turnquist stepped in to provide leadership as a Master Teacher for the Kids Choir and young elementary class. In June 2019, we bid farewell to Children’s Ministry Director Rachel Baker. Through this summer, Teacher Edith Solis and volunteer Bruce Turnquist, with other volunteers, will provide leadership for the Children’s Ministry “Praying in the Dirt.”

Staffing:
The Team’s main focus has been clarifying staffing needs for youth ministry, general pastoral responsibilities, and community engagement—and also expanding our engagement with the “weekday community” around the church and deepening our commitment to environmental ministries.

To that end, the church developed the position of “Ministry Resident for Youth and the Environment,” and after an extensive search, hired Emily Syal, a recent graduate of Pacific School of Religion with much youth ministry experience, for the position that starts July 15. The position is ¾ work, ¼ training.

In addition, after searching unsuccessfully for 18 months for a fulltime “Minister (or Director) for Youth, Families, and Children,” the Search Committee recommended and the Council approved that we contract with the national...
search and consulting firm Ministry Architects to help us assess our ministry needs and also provide “head-hunting” for the search process. Two Ministry Architect representatives spent a long weekend in March meeting with numerous United groups (youth, parents, Council, Search committee, Children’s/Youth Team) and the congregation as a whole to develop a “picture” of the church and particularly our ministries with children and youth. Their 27-page report offers an overview of our strengths and areas for growth.

Since March, the Search Committee has worked with Ministry Architects to identify and assess potential candidates. To date, we’ve reviewed 20+ resumes and video-interviewed two persons. However, we have yet to find a suitable candidate, so the search continues, as does the planning for children’s and youth leadership in the interim.

We also had immediate staffing needs for other ongoing ministries that were met with these additions:

- **Administrative Assistant:** Through the fall, Diane Bethune provided 3-8 hours/week to assist Office Administrator Lin Raymond. When Diane needed to step back due to family needs, volunteer Pam Hyde stepped up, offering two afternoons a week through early summer. It’s been a real help!
- **As mentioned above,** three new Choral Scholars (Nicole Lopez, Jonathan Davidson, Gerard Bennett) joined the music staff.

Although the new hires are part-time and total staff hours small, the time investment for the searches (developing positions, interviewing, organizing compensations and paperwork) is considerable, especially for our Senior Minister as head of staff. In addition to the new hires, we reviewed the annual leave policy for several staff members.

We are determined to find the right and best candidates in all searches, whether full-time or part-time. We appreciate your support and prayers. We are deeply grateful for our ongoing staff: Office Administrator Lin Raymond, Music Director/Pianist Jacquelyn Helin, Sanctuary and Festival Choir Director Bradley Ellingboe, Nurture Center Teacher Carrie McCabe, Infant Caregiver Rebecca Griego, substitute Sally Greenall, Children’s Assistant Edith Solis, Sexton David LaPlantz, all the Choral Scholars, and Senior Minister Rev. Talitha Arnold.

Respectfully submitted,
Wes-Granberg Michaelson

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**Children and Youth Ministry Team**

Chair: Steve Hamilton

Team: Amy Aalberts, Gail Ansheles, Amanda Darby, Geri Glover, Bruce Turnquist, Fred Yoder

This has been an exciting and eventful time in the United Church’s children and youth program. With three beautiful new classrooms built and dedicated to the program for our children and youth and an expanded Nurture Center, the Church for the first time in its history has an expansive area totally dedicated to the children and youth of our Church (and those yet to come through the doors!).

Throughout the year the children’s program was guided by Children’s Ministry Director Rachel Baker, assisted by Edith Solis Gutierrez, Teaching Assistant; Monika Bialostocka, Children’s Choir Director and Younger Elementary Teacher; Rebecca Griego, Nursery Childcare Provider; Carrie McCabe, Nursery Center Coordinator and Teacher; and Sally Greenall, Substitute for Nursery Care. Additionally, many members of the congregation have assisted as volunteer baby bouncers and in other duties including volunteers par-excellence, Master Teacher Bruce Turnquist and “Baby Rocker” Robert Spitz.

In advance of the beginning of a new Youth Initiate group in 2019, Rebecca Crutchfield has served as the able leader of the Church’s GAP year youth. As to that beginning, the Church in May hired a Ministerial Resident for Youth and the Environment, Emily Syal, a recent seminary graduate with boundless enthusiasm and energy and an impressive background in church youth programs. She arrives July 15 to begin that two-year program with the eighth and ninth grade youth and also develop our ministry with High School Youth.
Moving forward, the Church retained the services of Ministry Architects, a nationwide church consulting organization, both to provide an assessment of our Church’s children and youth ministries, and to assist the Church in finding a new Minister for Children, Youth, and Families to oversee that program. In late March, Ministry Architects provided a 28-page Comprehensive Youth Ministry Assessment Report which had much praise for our Church, particularly in its commitment to its children and youth, their participation in intergenerational worship, and the Church’s well established and led Youth Initiation to Adulthood. The report also had contained numerous constructive recommendations that are being carefully considered by our Church’s leadership including the Children and Youth Ministry Team.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Hamilton

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Membership Development Ministry Team
Chair: Linda Knapp

Team Members: Shirley Clark, Jessica Smucker, Jane Godlove, Talitha Arnold (ex-officio)

Welcoming Visitors and Newcomer Events
Notes were written by team members (organized by Jessica Smucker) to visitors who signed the guest book each week, welcoming them and encouraging them to come again and to take part in other activities at United. Talitha also sends letters and forms asking for feedback about visitors’ experiences at the church, resulting in helpful and positive input. Visitors overwhelmingly note the friendly welcome. Many thanks to fifteen 8:30 greeters and eighteen 11:00 greeters who have provided this welcome, and a special thanks to Connie Maldegen and Talitha for arranging the schedules.

We continue to provide nametags (a sign-up sheet is in the Community Room) for new members and regular “friends.” Newcomer forums and membership orientations are held during the year as needed. Since the last Annual Meeting in June 2018 32 new members have joined. We continue to sell United T-shirts throughout the year.

Advertising and Getting the Word Out
Through the work of Talitha Arnold, Lin Raymond, and Russ Rountree, the amount of advertising and “getting the word out” about what is happening at United continues to be a high priority in the print media (The New Mexican and Pasatiempo), social media (website and Facebook), and business-sized cards (which are available in the Community Room).

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Knapp, Chair

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Parish Life Ministry Team
Chair: Nancy Merchat

The Parish Life Team includes: John Shaffer (Congregational Care Team), Beth and Frank Cionek, Candy and Frank Norris, Cheryl Killion, Diane Bethune, Karin Anderson, Melanie Lohmann, Nancy and Tom Merchat, Nevanne Merrill (Team members for Reception/Special Events). Other volunteers include Cheryl Haskin, Debbie Maloney, Ellie Voutselas, Joanne Rhodes, Lydia Lair, Merry Converse, Susan Lear, Susan Probert and Tom Himrod.
Parish Life organizes special events, memorial receptions, church cookouts, potluck brunches, the annual Stewardship Dinner, and works with other ministry teams to come together to share food and fellowship. The Parish Life Team also appreciates all the people who have helped us with the following events:

- June 24, 2018: Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck Brunch
- July 14, 2018: Memorial Reception for Michael Scofield
- Aug. 26, 2018: Back to School Cookout/Potluck (Children’s and Youth Ministry + Parish Life)
- Sept. 9, 2018: Fiesta Sunday, All Church Potluck Brunch
- Sept. 23, 2018: Classroom Dedication Ceremony with Celebration Cake
- Oct. 27, 2018: Stewardship Table Host Breakfast
- Nov. 11, 2018: Stewardship Dinner at Cristo Rey Catholic Church
- Dec. 8, 2018: St. Nick’s Pancake Breakfast (Children’s and Youth Ministry + Parish Life)
- Dec. 12, 2018: Memorial Reception for Pat Dean
- Dec. 21, 2018: Las Posadas Reception with Santa Maria de la Paz
- Jan. 13, 2019: All Church New Year Potluck Brunch
- Jan. 17, 2019: Doane College Choir Dinner prior to Concert
- March 3, 2019: Mardi Gras Potluck Brunch
- April 21, 2019: Easter Sunday Potluck Treats and Sweets
- May 5, 2019: UNITED WE RUN, Cookout/Potluck (Outreach + Parish Life)
- May 26, 2019: Cake Celebration for the 39th Birthday of United Church of Santa Fe
- June 16, 2019: Cupcake Celebration – Farewell, Blessings and Godspeed to Rachel Baker

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2019
Planning has started for our next Annual Stewardship Dinner at Cristo Rey Catholic Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Merchat

Congregational Care Team
Chair: John Shaffer

Your Congregational Care Team consists of Janet Harris, Debbie Maloney, Janyth and Ferol Fell, Nevanne Merrill, Dave Wilkison, Dusty Pruitt, June Yoder, and John Shaffer (chair). We meet nine to ten times each year to support Pastoral Care to our faith family at United Church and the broader community. We write notes of care, concern and support, and of joy, encouragement and congratulations. We make hospital and occasional home visits. Our Food Group prepares and delivers meals for those with situational needs. Each month one member serves “On Call”, to step in if our pastor is away or unavailable.

We are truly blessed to attend to the cares and joys of our family at United Church.

Respectfully submitted,
John Shaffer

Fellowship and Growth Groups

Women’s Study Group
Ann Barker

The Women’s Study Group meets the first and third Wednesday mornings of the month (Sept. through May). Twelve to twenty women participate regularly, with one person leading the book discussion and another bringing refreshments. This year we read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann; *The Line Becomes a River* by Francisco Cantu, *Being a Christian in the 21st Century* by Gould & King, *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng, *Mrs. Bridge* by Evan Connell, and *Homo Deus* by Yuval Harari. For next year’s reading list, please contact Ann Barker (670-3383).
United Artists
Shirley Clark

United Artists has enjoyed a very good year, welcoming four new members (two from United and two who “friends like family”). On an “all present” day, we have 13+ artists enthusiastically involved with their provocative, humorous and inspirational creations, latest paintings (watercolor, acrylics, oriental), pastels, collages, poems, sketches and drawings, weavings, greeting cards, multimedia and digital cards, and other multimedia and multidimensional projects. On another day we could have 2 folks, more quietly sharing while they create. We continue to enjoy the blessings of shared “formal art education,” and divine inspirations, occasionally surprising ourselves with God’s gifts. Two highlights this year were a pre-Christmas multi-artist, multimedia show and sale at Christ Lutheran Church and a reunion with our generous and inspirational founder/mentor, Dorothy Mendelson visiting from California. All are welcome to join us!

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Outreach Team
Chair: Karen Dailey

Team Members: Rev. Betsy Bueschel, Hank Hughes, Pat Roach, Vickie Sewing and Kim Straus

United Church of Santa Fe continues to live into the call of “Love God, Love Neighbor, Love Creation” through a variety of programs and fundraising events.

The Outreach Team is very blessed to have the support of United’s compassionate and caring congregation. Outreach is grateful to all who volunteered their time, offered their talents and answered the call for donations in support of this ministry.

Outreach Special Appeals and Fundraisers:

- Compassionate Christmas Gifts (see list below for organizations)
- United We Run (Santa Fe Dreamers, NM Environmental Law Center, BOOKKIDS)
- Fall Sock Drive for Interfaith Shelter (262 pairs of socks collected)
- Summer Food Drive (1,000 food items and $200 in monetary donations to benefit SFPS Adelante program and Feeding Santa Fe)
- Calendar and Card Collection for Prisoners (233 calendars and over 1,000 greeting cards collected)
- BOOKKIDS Book Drive (162 books collected)
- School Supply Drive (donations to SFP El Camino Real Academy)
- Equal Exchange Coffee Sales (monthly, benefit farmer cooperatives around the world)

Hands-on Projects:

- Interfaith Shelter Week (organized by Betsy Bueschel, Jennifer Kilbourn and Marc Black, plus 70+ volunteers)
- Monthly dinners at St. Elizabeth Shelter (organized by Joanne Rhodes, 20 volunteers)
- Monthly dinners at Casa Familia (Jackie and Richard Neel organizers through December 2018, now organized by Monika McKennie, 20 volunteers)
- Santa Fe River Clean-up (organized by Rachel Baker and Talitha Arnold) with the Santa Fe Watershed Association, four times a year (8-15 volunteers)
- Advocacy Day at New Mexico Legislature (organized by Hank Hughes; 14 volunteers participated)
- Volunteers with Communities in Schools

The children and youth of United, under the direction of Children’s Ministry Director Rachel Baker, actively contributed to outreach efforts through the following service projects:

- St. Nick’s Breakfast: 88 hygiene kits for St. Elizabeth guests; nearly 50 Christmas gifts for Casa Familia
- Decorated 10 dozen cookies for the firefighters at the Arroyo Chamiso station
- Christmas caroling at El Castillo (intergenerational event)
- Backpack Food Drive for the Food Depot Backpack program for local underserved children
- Garden Kit sale for One Great Hour of Sharing (raised $410)
- Youth are working on reducing single-use plastic at UCSF
- June fundraiser for the “Santa Fe Kids Corner” for asylum-seeking children (over $400)
Summer 2018 – May 2019 International Aid:
One Great Hour of Sharing: $3,505.38
Week of Compassion (Disciples of Christ): $1,050

Immigration (since last summer and in addition to United We Run and Compassionate Christmas)
- Staff assistance for Santa Fe Interfaith Network: $2,000
- Special offering of $5,335 for New Mexico Catholic Charities to support the influx of immigrants dropped off in Albuquerque.

June 2018 – May 2019 Disaster Relief:
United sponsored several special fund drives for Disaster Relief (through the United Church of Christ)
- Floods in the Carolinas: $670 (fall 2018)
- Fires in California: $1,925 (fall 2018)
- Tornadoes in the South: $2,545
In addition, $570 went to the Santa Fe Community Foundation for local flood relief (summer 2018).
**Total Disaster Relief:** $5,704

Benefit Concerts:
- “StarSong”: $800 to Santa Fe Watershed Association
- “JanFest” (with Coro Lux): $600 each to Casa Familia and ABQ Roadrunner Food Bank
**Total:** $2,000

2019 United We Run:
Santa Fe Dreamers Project: $700
New Mexico Environmental Law Center: $700
BOOKKIDS: $700
**Total:** $2,100

2018 Compassionate Christmas Gifts:
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center: $2,050
One night’s shelter for a guest at:
- St. Elizabeth Shelter: $368
- Casa Familia: $368
- Interfaith Shelter: $368
- Youth Shelter: $368
Church World Service Blanket: $370
Solace Crisis Center Comfort Backpacks for Children: $830
New Mexico Wildlife Federation (for student field trips): $570
Iraqi Refugee Women (for training and empowerment): $1,050
**Total Compassionate Christmas:** $6,345

United Church of Christ:
OCWM and Per Capita Dues: $8,058
Christmas Fund: $1,294
Good Shepherd (Sahuarita, AZ – 2018 Christmas Offering for Immigrants and Asylum-seekers): $1,294
Good Shepherd (Sahuarita, AZ – Border Ministries, June 29, 2018): $3,700
**Total UCC:** $14,346

Miscellaneous (from other donations):
- Pastor’s Fund (for families & individuals in need): $1,692
- Suicide Prevention: $571
- Interfaith Shelter: $485
- SF Faith Network for Immigrant Justice (donated from UCC member’s sale of weavings): $1,200
**Total Miscellaneous:** $3,948

Please note these figures do not include volunteers’ and staff leadership for multiple ministries and numerous in-kind donations (e.g., food, knit items, socks).

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Dailey
Immigration Task Force
Co-chairs: Bonney Hughes, Faith Yoman

The United Church is committed to educating ourselves and others, keeping up with national and local immigration news and events, and taking action to support our immigrant brothers and sisters. Several Task Force members participate in the Santa Fe Faith Network for Immigrant Justice. From June 2018 to May 2019, Task Force members:

- Attended a march and gathering at the Roundhouse last June for immigrant right and a hearing in July about private prisons in New Mexico.
- Led an Adult Forum on family separations at the southern border. Presenter Sarah Grace spoke about sanctuary in Santa Fe and distributed interest forms for those wishing to support the effort.
- Participated in the United Volunteer Fair in February to give congregants an opportunity to express interest in immigration issues.
- Assisted asylum-seekers released from the Cibola Detention Center. To shift some of the burden off the Albuquerque immigrants rights groups, Santa Fe is responsible for one week a month.
- Convened a “Mission Retreat” in January, led by Jim and Avril Ekstrand, to clarify our mission, goals and vision for the future: “As witnesses of our faith, we help lead United’s efforts to educate our community, support immigrants, and advocate for immigrant justice.”
- Sought Council approval for $2,000 from United for Pastor Tiffany Curtis’ salary of Faith Network for Immigrant Justice.
- Following the shooting at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue, sent a letter of support that also shared that members of the Task Force had made local donations in their honor.
- Donations included: Clothing and supplies to Kino Border Initiative that a Task Force member took to Nogales; funding for Monte del Sol for local immigrant families.
- Agreed to support Las Cumbres Community Services’ Santuario del Corazon program, that provides counseling to children affected by family separation in whatever ways possible.
- Collected signatures and participated in a protest toward the effort to persuade Wells Fargo Bank to quickly (rather than slowly) divest from their investments in private prisons.

Much remains to be done, and the Task Force continues to respond to the best of our varied abilities. We are also glad that in 2018, United gave $11,700 for various immigration causes including Santa Fe Dreamers, SF Faith Network for Immigrant Justice, Good Shepherd UCC Sahuarita, NM Immigration Law Center, Iraqi refugee women.

Respectfully submitted,
Faith Yoman

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Property & Maintenance
Chair: David Feldt

We are now about three months away from our Certificate of Occupancy anniversary. That means we have about three months of Warranty left for the education wing with DeJarnette Construction. We intend to get a final punch list to Neal later this summer. He will honor it even if it goes over the date so there is no serious pressure but if you know of any problems or defects please be sure to let me know as soon as possible.

This upcoming year will be my last year as chair of the Property and Maintenance Ministry Team. It is time for someone else to begin understanding the physical plant. I will be available as long as needed for consultation and for doing chores and happy to do so.

We have approximately 13,700 square feet of heated space that needs to be maintained. So far with the help of lots of volunteers and a healthy budget we’ve been able to keep the property in good condition. Last year we re-stuccoed and re-roofed the entire building along with the new construction. That has helped a lot. As an aside, doing both of these last year saved us a lot of money. I deal with roof and stucco costs almost weekly in my business and the prices are skyrocketing for these two items!
In this coming year I have three primary goals along with keeping the ball rolling: 1) to paint and re-carpet the office area (this project is on the calendar for early July), 2) re-paint the Sanctuary and make some minor repairs, and 3) last, the most difficult, create a spreadsheet/calendar for an ongoing maintenance schedule and history. For the last item I could really use someone who has some time and some skill with Excel. You don’t need to know anything about maintenance, just know Excel.

The first item calls for some serious temporary volunteers. We have painters scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd of July. We need to empty and move the offices Monday, July 1. Many hands make light work! Let me know if you can help please! Of course, we’ll need help putting it all back together again on the 8th through the 10th of July also. Plenty of opportunity!!

Lastly several notes of thanks; to Tom Merchat who has been my right-hand man and always pleasant helper; to Linda Churchill and Donna Clark who supervise all of the landscape issues and to the nice folks on the Stewardship and Finance Team. They never stop reminding me in a gentle and pleasant way about how much money I spend. Even more they seem to accept the fact that is too late to teach this old dog any new tricks!

Respectfully submitted,
David Feldt

**Landscape**

Thanks to the leadership and hard work of Linda Churchill (with Donna Clark, Nyla Rasmussen, and Rachel Baker), the development of the church’s landscaping continued this year. The church contracted with Landscape Architect Mark Licht and contractor Joaquin Marquez to design and construct the hardscape for the children’s and youth area (including a “bubbler” fountain for the littlest ones) and also the outside worship space. Both were in use by the end of June! Earlier in the year, the entire Children’s and Youth area was fenced.

It is now possible to **walk completely around the church** on a path that goes through the Children’s and Youth area, the Peace Garden, and out to the Reflection Trail, and back by the new Worship Circle!

Thanks to Cindy Knox and Cindy and Miles Buechler, we have four new garden beds which the children and adults blessed in late June and already have plants planted! The children’s summer ministry program focuses on the stories of God’s garden, with hands-on experience to “pray in the dirt” and care for God’s garden.

The next stage includes the planting plan for the Children’s and Youth area and the St. Michael’s frontage. The major part of the planting will be done by El Toro (Charles Doerwald) who also does the regular maintenance of the property. As before, we want to engage the congregation and especially parents and kids in envisioning the new outdoor spaces.

Children and youth, along with adults, all lent a hand (literally) in the church landscaping. We had seasonal workdays, including Good Friday morning, to weed, rake, trim the grounds, and renew the Reflection Trail with a truckload of mulch! We also want to continue to develop a solid core of “Landscape volunteers” to supplement the paid maintenance. Let us know if you’d like to lend a hand!

We are also excited to get the wall/sign along St. Michael’s done so we can finish the Reflection Trail plantings and also be able to welcome the neighborhood to find a place of respite and connection with creation at United.
38th ANNUAL MEETING
THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
Sunday, June 24, 2018 – 11:15 am

Call to Order and Establishment of a Quorum at 11:15 am by Moderator Bob Ansheles

Opening Prayer
Talitha Arnold

Establishment of a Quorum – (20% of in town congregation – i.e., 55 members)

Receiving the Annual Report (vote to accept) – Report was accepted

Highlights of the year (Moderator and Ministry Team Chairs)

Election:
- Moderator: Bob Ansheles (“re-upping” for another 1 year term)
- Secretary: Cheryl Killion (2020)
- Parish Life: Nancy Merchat (2020)
- Children /Youth: Steve Hamilton (2020)
- Stewardship/Finance: Pam Hyde (2020)
- Property/Maintenance: Dave Feldt (2020)
- Outreach: Karen Dailey (2020)
- Membership Development: Linda Knapp (2020)

(Personnel chair Wes Granberg-Michaelson finishing the first year of his two year term so he doesn’t need to be re-elected).

Move to accept – Julie Moore, seconded Cheryl Haskin.

Updates on Church Projects:
David Darby/Dave Feldt
- Building Expansion – All of the building has been re-roofed.
- 6 to 8 people are needed to paint new rooms. Paint afternoons are Saturday, July 7 (1:00 to 5:00); Sunday, July 8 (12:00 to 4:00)

Conservation and Outdoor Space
Linda Churchill
- Some planting is on hold due to drought. Some of the areas the City mowed down have been replanted.
- Giving Opportunities for Building and Landscaping are on the back of the agenda.

Search Process Report – Associate Minister for Youth, Discipleship and Environmental Ministries
Wes Granberg-Michaelson (Search Committee: Betsy Bueschel, Jack Lain, John Schaffer, Rachel Baker and Sr. Minister Talitha Arnold (ex-officio).

1. Update on Search:
   a. Position description updated.
   b. UCC Profile done (all 35 pages of it) and sent to Southwest Conference June 18. May be posted by July 1.
   c. Advertised in the Christian Century and Christianity Today.
   d. Emails and job descriptions sent to national UCC “Still Writers’ Group” as well as other colleagues, shared at Yale Divinity School, Reform Church of American General Assembly, and other gatherings.
   e. Posted on multiple college, university and seminary websites.

2. July 15 Adult Forum (Sunday Forum 9:45) with Parents of Youth (5th graders through High School) to discuss fall plans and staffing.

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members:
Mitch Mahon, Treasurer
Jim Maloney, Moderator Emeritus (also Moderator, Moderator-elect, Personnel Chair).

Talitha thanked Bob Ansheles for “reupping” and all the staff members for jobs well done.

Adjournment and Shalom (sing twice).

Respectfully submitted
Cheryl Killion
Mid-Winter Congregational Meeting  
United Church of Santa Fe  
Sunday, February 3, 2019 – 9:30 am  
(Bold indicates congregational vote needed)

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Bob Ansheles. The opening prayer was said by Rev. Talitha Arnold. A quorum was established.

Introduction of the Council:
- Treasurer – Sam Elkind  
- Secretary – Cheryl Killion  
- Children/Youth – Steve Hamilton  
- Stewardship/Finance – Pam Hyde  
- Property Maintenance – Dave Feldt  
- Membership Development – Linda Knapp  
- Parish Life – Nancy Merchat  
- Outreach – Karen Dailey  
- Personnel – Wes Granberg-Michaelson

New Business:
1. As a lead-in to the Budget and Stewardship discussion, Bob invited the attendees to share with one another an experience of how they had known God’s generosity.
2. Report from 2019 Stewardship Campaign
   - Bob Ansheles, Moderator
   - 199 pledges  
   - 32 new pledges (26 new in 2018)  
   - 66 increased  
   - $68,993 total increases in new pledges  
   - 24 not renewed (30 in 2018) (generally due to people moving, health/financial issues, death)  
   - 28 decreased (22 in 2018)  
   - $64,512 in pledges not renewed or reduced, made up with new or increased pledges
3. Budget Report and Presentation
   - Presentation of proposed 2019 Operating Budget  
   - Pam Hyde, Chair, Stewardship/Finance
   - Motion to adopt 2019 Operating Budget
     - a. Overview of budget plan  
     - b. Discussion  
     - c. Vote – Budget was unanimously approved.
   - Money has been set aside for filling vacancies. Unspent money has increased the operating reserve for at least 6 months. The sabbatical reserve has also increased.
4. Update on Staffing Searches
   - Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson, Personnel Chair
     - a. Associate Minister for Youth, Discipleship and Environmental Ministries Committee includes Moderator Bob Ansheles, Rev. Betsy Bueschel, John Shaffer, Jack Lain. Ex-officio: Senior Minister Talitha Arnold; Children’s Director Rachel Baker. In the past 18 months 20 Candidates have been interviewed—in person or via Skype. Two possible candidates in November but neither worked out. There is one current Candidate now who will graduate seminary this spring. We may also contract with a “head-hunting/consulting” organization to help identify candidates. Goal is to have someone in place by midsummer. The top criteria – experience in youth ministry, ordained, grounded in the Christian faith with an understanding of church and congregational ministry.
     - b. Youth Choir Director: Talitha Arnold reported on the search for leader for 5th through early High School youth. Contacted several leads in Santa Fe. Challenge of not many people having either a progressive Christian or much church background. (4-5 hours/week)
     - c. Office Administrator Assistant must be tech savvy for 5 – 10 hours a week.
5. Update on Landscape Project:
   - Linda Churchill, chair
   - Plans to have Children’s/Youth vegetable garden, play area, brick path to outdoors, moveable benches for 8:30 Summer and other outdoor services. Current goal is for mid-June of this phase.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 with singing of “Shalom.”

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Killion, Council Secretary
Memorial Report  
(June 23, 2018 – June 30, 2019)

MEMBERSHIP AS OF:  June 24, 2018:  279 total (263 in-town, 16 out-of-town)  
June 30, 2019:  286 total (270 in-town, 16 out-of-town) 

MEMBERSHIP PATTERNS:  
- 1987:  132 (100 in-town, 32 out-of-town)  
- 2008:  333 (303 in-town; 30 out-of-town)  
- 2013:  254 (231 in-town, 23 out-of-town) (we created a “friendly former member” category)  
- 2015:  278 (257 in-town, 21 out-of-town)  
- 2016:  273 (257 in-town, 16 out-of-town)  
- 2018:  271 (251 in-town, 20 out of town)  

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP:  
- 1987:  75 adults, 20 children/youth  
- 1990:  89 adults, 20 children  
- 1997:  120 adults, 45 children  
- 2003:  155 adults, 42 children (complete Sanctuary expansion in 2002)  
- 2005:  168 adults, 58 children/youth  
- 2010:  151 adults  
- 2013:  148 adults, 30 to 35 children/youth  
- 2015:  170 adults, 30 to 35 children/youth  
- 2016:  170 adults  
- 2017:  175 adults  
- 2018:  170 adults (dedicated Education Wing, September)  

EASTER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:  
- 1987:  180 adults, 30 children  
- 1993:  310 adults, 70 children  
- 1998:  384 adults, 80 children  
- 2000:  290 adults, 80 children  
- 2005:  357 adults, 77 children  
- 2010:  390 adults, 62 children  
- 2015:  416 adults, 60-70 children/youth  
- 2016:  380 adults, 60-70 children/youth  
- 2017:  435 adults, 50-60 children/youth  
- 2018:  416 adults, 40-50 children/youth  

CHRISTMAS EVE ATTENDANCE:  
- 1990:  169 adults, 26 children  
- 1995:  198 adults, 48 children  
- 2000:  265 adults, 50 children  
- 2005:  350 adults, 86 children  
- 2010:  295 adults, 50 children/youth  
- 2012:  285 adults  
- 2013:  300 adults, 60 children/youth  
- 2015:  395 adults, 60 children/youth  
- 2016:  395 adults, 40+ children/youth  
- 2018:  330 adults 

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MEMBERSHIP CHANGES (June 23, 2018 – June 30, 2019)

NEW MEMBERS (32)
REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH (14)
Ian Bannerman  Rachel Joyce  Karen Wilbanks
Kim Bannerman  Barrett Markland  Ann Wymore
Avril Ekstrand  Peter Smith  Fred Yoder
Jim Ekstrand  Sherill Spaar  June Yoder
Linda Hummingbird  Frank Wilbanks

LETTER OF TRANSFER (18)
Diane Darby  Lydia Lair  Joanne Rhodes
Molly Elkind  Sharon Mecklem  Andrew Ritch
Sam Elkind  Dorothy Patinka  Sally Stewart
April Herren  Norman Patinka  Tom Stewart
Marcom Herren  Rev. Dusty Pruitt  Becki Utigard
Jean-Pierre Lair  Judy Rainger  Phil Utigard

REMOVED (25)
DEATHS (3)
Pat Dean  Joan Spencer
Fred Ribe

TRANSFERS (2)
Jay and Carol Jolly

RESIGNATIONS (2)
Lin Bartucca  Penny Chlebicki

MEMBERS RECATEGORYIZED AS “FRIENDLY FORMER MEMBERS” (18)
(Inactive in-town members or out-of-town members who moved over a year ago but haven’t joined another church. They stay on United’s communication lists but aren’t counted as active members, and therefore are not part of the per capita dues paid to the Southwest Conference.)
John Bell  Sarah Stewart (Ohio)
Letta Bingana (Arizona)  Chuck & Terry Terry (Colorado)
NJ Bingana (Arizona)  YOUTH OUT OF STATE
Barbara Brackett  Mark Jurgens (Arizona)
Greg & Linda Gaertner  Emily Manges (New York)
Owen Gemmer (Florida)  Sophia Mulholland (Iowa)
Jolie Jacobs  Nina Pelaez (Arizona)
Bob & Christiane Marler (Texas)
Chris Stewart (Ohio)

BAPTISMS (3 – infant/child)
Bonnie Ellen Bannerman  Alejandro Maximillian Quintana
Maggie Sue Bannerman

MEMORIAL and/or INTERMENT SERVICES: (5) (*member)
Barbara Bedient  Jean Duncan
Ronald Coss  Michael Scofield
Pat Dean*