

**PRAYERS OF NEW LIFE
FOR
EASTERTIDE AND EARTH DAY**

The proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well, but as one who has faced the cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, God's will, not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. Christ's life and our lives through Christ, in Christ. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord *has* risen.

Frederick Buechner, The Magnificent Defeat

To pray you open your whole self—
to sky,
to earth,
to sun,
to moon,
to one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you cannot see, cannot hear.

Joy Harjo, *Eagle Poem*
(from Muscogee oral tradition)

O God, great and wonderful,
who has created the heavens,
dwelling in their light and beauty;
who has made the earth,
revealing yourself in every flower that opens.
Let not my eyes be blind to you,
neither let my heart be dead,
but teach me to praise you,
even as the lark which offers her song at daybreak.

Saint Isidore of Seville

An Easter Prayer for Children

God of ceaseless new beginnings,
fill your child (name) with your new life,
this day and every day. Amen.

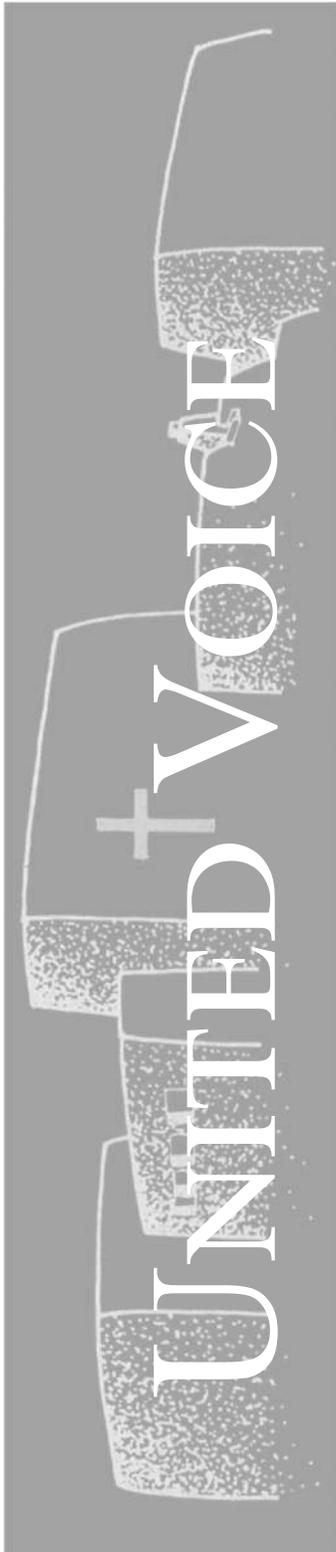
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Monthly publication

United Church of Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

April 2020



**UNITED CHURCH
OF SANTA FE**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1804 Arroyo Chamiso
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Phone: 505-988-3295
Fax: 505-988-2353

E-mail: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com
www.unitedchurchofsantafe.org

The Rev. Talitha Arnold
Senior Pastor

Robert Ansheles
Moderator of the Congregation

Emily Syal
Pastoral Resident

Jacquelyn Helin, D.M.A.
Music Director and Pianist

Prof. Bradley Ellingboe
Director of Choirs

Rebecca Crutchfield
Young Adventurers

Eddie Napoli-Quisling
Young Adventurers

Katie Bickley
Elementary Teacher

Carrie McCabe
Nurture Center Teacher

Rebecca Griego
Infant & Toddler Caregiver

Lin Raymond
Office Administrator

**Covenant of
The United Church of Santa Fe**

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.

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

What is the essence of Easter?

Is it a church filled with flowers, music, and people? Singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* or hearing the trumpets? Is the essence of Easter new clothes or the Easter Egg hunt after services. Maybe it's the brunch and mimosas after church.

What is the essence of Easter? That's the question I've been asking myself since last Sunday night (March 15), when the CDC mandated no gatherings over 50 people for two months. I quickly did that math and realized that meant through May 15, long past Easter. Two days later, the current Administration proclaimed no groups over ten for two weeks—but that timeline is hardly realistic.

As the world has moved into more and more into self-isolation and sheltering in place, congregations and the people who serve them as clergy, musicians, children's teachers, and others have scrambled to figure out how to "do Easter" (and the Holy Week that proceeds it) this year.

As I said to a friend, I've been a pastor for a long time, and I've given up a lot of things for Lent. This is the first time I've given up Easter.

The temptation—at least for me, perhaps for you—is to try to keep everything the same, only virtually or online. Make sure the Sanctuary looks like it always does on Easter, filled with flowers. Maybe we could pipe in the *Hallelujah Chorus*. If we're going online, I'd better make sure my hair gets done on Saturday—just like every other Easter.

But this isn't every other Easter. Of course, neither was the first Easter. It didn't happen in a beautiful church or temple. It was outside, at a tomb. There weren't a ton of people—just five or six women, if you believe the Gospel of Luke, only Mary of Magdala, if you can trust the Gospel of John. No Easter Egg hunt afterward and they didn't all go to brunch later.

Instead, the women ran to tell the disciples who had been scattered and isolated ever since Friday. Some went to the tomb and some stayed behind. A couple hightailed it out of Jerusalem that very night until an encounter with a stranger along the road sent them running back to tell the others. One wasn't anywhere to be found when the risen Christ showed up, and he wasn't about to believe the others until he'd experienced it all first-hand (literally).

No, the essence of that first Easter wasn't found in a church filled with people, lilies, and choirs. Its essence was simply the gift of new life. After all that death and fear, after all the isolation and sheltering alone, came true resurrection as the community came back together, stronger and deeper than before. More faithful and more alive than ever before.

No matter what happens by Sunday, April 12 or the weeks and months that follow, this Easter, in the year of our Lord 2020, may we know its true essence.

Christ is risen and so are we.

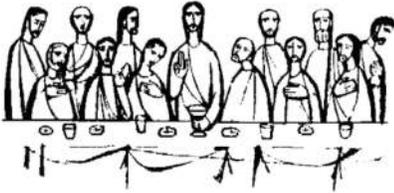
Blessings,



Worship in April

A Sacred Journey (even done online)

Easter Sunday makes more sense if we've taken the journey of Holy Week—from the cheering crowds to the last supper to the anguish in the garden and finally to the place called Golgotha, the Skull. It is not an easy journey, which is why we take it together. It is a journey that leads to new life, which is why we take it in the first place.



Not by Bread Alone **Palm Sunday—April 5**

A few days after the great parade into Jerusalem, Jesus shared a final meal with his friends. This Sunday, we share that same meal and remember how he gave his followers not only bread but also hope and courage for the wilderness ahead. (Matthew 26:17-30)

All of Them

Maundy Thursday—April 9 (7:30 pm)

He had to take longer than 20 seconds. According to John's Gospel, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples the last night of his life. (John 13:1-17) It probably took longer than the prescribed hand washing time of twenty seconds. After all, feet get a lot dirtier than hands. Plus, he had to wash them one foot at a time. And he washed all their feet. He could have left out Judas or skipped over Peter, knowing what they would do after supper was over. But he didn't. He washed all their feet, even those of the one who would betray and the other who would deny. All their feet. All of them. All of us.

The Cross of the World

Good Friday—April 10 (12:00 Noon)

We gather at the foot of the cross (perhaps outdoors) to hear the story and to pray for a presence.



The Essence of Easter (April 12)

6:00 am – Outdoor Sunrise Service

8:30 am and 11:00 am Celebrations of Resurrection
(These services may be outdoors, too!)



How do we live the life of faith? How do we believe in the possibility of new life? In the words of St. Augustine, we "Sing 'Alleluia' and keep on walking!" It's a day to celebrate all creation—and we ourselves—coming back to life! All services for all ages.

The True Master Gardener

April 19 – Earth Day Sunday

At the tomb Mary Magdalene first mistakes the risen Christ for a gardener. (John 20:11-18) It's a great story for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day! God is the true master gardener who calls us to love this creation as God so loves.

Companions Along the Way **April 26**

After his resurrection, two of Jesus' disciples meet a stranger along the road to Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-35) They ask him to walk with them, and when he shares a meal with them, they realize he's the Risen Christ. Who knows whom we'll meet along our way or how God might open our eyes?

New Members Welcomed – Sunday, May 17
Interested in joining? Please contact Talitha Arnold (988-3295). Thanks!

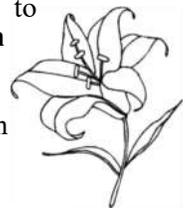
WAYS TO HELP FOR EASTER!

Spring Church Spruce-Up Day **Saturday, April 11 (9:00 am-Noon)**

Help get United ready for spring. General grounds cleanup, wash windows, dust inside. We'll have tools and gloves (bring your own if you have them). Donuts and coffee provided! Come for the morning or just an hour.

Easter Flower Remembrances **(Flowers for Shut-ins)**

Remember or honor a loved one with a donation of an Easter lily. Email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Please indicate who you would like to remember or honor. Deadline: **Palm Sunday, April 5**. Suggested donation: \$15/lily. All names will be listed in the Easter Bulletin and flowers taken to shut-ins afterward.





Music Notes

By Jacquelyn Helin, Music Director

We have beautiful music in store for Holy Week and Easter! Plans may change as the public health situation unfolds, but as of March 15 here's what we have planned.

- **The Holy Week Choir's** anthems include:
 - In both **Palm Sunday** services (April 5): Bradley Nelson's *My Song is Love Unknown*.
 - For **Maundy Thursday** (April 9—7:30): Ola Gjeilo's *Ubi Caritas* and Bradley Ellingboe's *Create in Me a Clean Heart*.
 - **Easter Sunday** (8:30 and 11:00): Randall Thompson' *Alleluia* and the *Hallelujah Chorus* (with all of YOU!).
 - Also, Trumpeter Emily Nastelin plays for Palm Sunday and Easter services.
- Piano music throughout Holy Week and Easter includes J.S. Bach. For Good Friday (April 10, 12:00 noon), it will also include African American Spirituals.
- The First Sunday of Eastertide (April 19), we welcome Youth Saxophonist Nathan Kingston and Youth Violinist Madelyn Kingston for special music at both services. We're also hoping to include our Choral Scholars in the 11:00 service.
- Sunday, April 26, both Early and Sanctuary Choirs sing.

If we do need to cancel or postpone the choral offerings, we would call upon our Choral Scholars or other soloists to offer music as well.

Happy Easter!

Jacquelyn



ALL THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OR GROUPS POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

- Immigration Task Force
- Lenten Academy
- Men of Faith and Doubt Bible Study
- Sanctuary/Holy Week Choir
- United Artists
- Women's Study Group

Info: 988-3295, unitedchurchsf@gmail.com

United's Website and YouTube Channel

The past month's sermons and much more are available on our website (unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Many more sermons videos can be found on our YouTube Channel. Go to YouTube and search for "United Church of Santa Fe."

COMMUNITY MUSICAL EVENTS POSTPONED

Due to the uncertainty of the coronavirus situation and the New Mexico Health Department's prohibition of "mass group" gatherings, the following musical events involving many United Church members have been postponed to indefinite dates. Please keep all the musicians and organizers in your prayers in this most difficult time—and watch for the new times!

- Jacquelyn Helin's performance of J.S. Bach's "Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I."
- Santa Fe Youth Orchestra's Benefit Concert, *Musical Roots*, with United Youth Madelyn and Nathan Kingston, Luke and Jaden Rand, Sasha and Jack Smucker, Hela and Erika Kelemen, Ethan Manske.
- *Coro Lux* and New Mexico Philharmonic's concert of Bradley Ellingboe's *Requiem*, to be directed by Brad. United singers included soloist Yasmeen Lookman, Gerald Bennett, Jonathan Davidson, Nicole Lopez, Karen Ellingboe, and Jody and Peter Spalding.



Coming Up

God Willing, the Creek Don't Rise, and the Coronavirus Goes Away:

40th Anniversary Reunion Choir Sunday, May 24 - 11:00 am service

All singers welcome! We'll be joined by some special out-of-town former members, too! Rehearse on Saturday, May 23 (2:00-4:00 pm) and sing in the Sunday 11:00 service as we kick off the week of celebration for United's 40th anniversary. More info later. Save the date now!



CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks to:

- **Landscape Committee**, for having created all the beautiful outdoor spaces over the last 4 years and for planning and planting seeds (at least figuratively :-)) to bloom forth this spring and summer;
- **Sacred Space Team**, planning for a new Pentecost banner for our 40th anniversary;
- All who are helping us stay connected, sane, faithful, healthy, and hopeful!

Prayers of new life and blessings for:

- New members who joined on Mardi Gras Sunday: **Don and Linda Zillman, dg okpik, Victoria and Joe Ubben, Bob and Carmen Shupe, Jim Reeves and Cristiana Zerber.**

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- All affected by the coronavirus, flu and other illnesses, and those who love and care for them;
- Those recovering from surgery, including **Greg and Linda Gaertner, Larry Eccard, Jo Rhodes' brother, Nevanne Merrill's son**; and those preparing for surgery (**Sally Greenall** and others);
- Those under Hospice care, including **Janis Rutschman's mother Gladys, Gregorio Martinez** (Msgr. Jerome Martinez' father) and **Pam Hyde's close friend, Mary.**
- Those recovering from strokes (**Craig Hoopes' mother**) or from accidents (**Michael Pschorr, Lauren Smith's mother**, and others);
- **Cliff Beck, Sandy Vermillion, Trudy Scott, Hugo Steensma, Eric Manske's father, Monsignor Jerome Martinez**, and others living with Parkinson's or other neurological conditions;
- Persons living with cancer and those who love and care for them (**Julia Moore, Jack Anderson, Greg and Linda Gaertner, Sally Greenall, Kate Filemyr, Joanie Parman, Cliff Beck's and Alice Casey's daughter**, and others); and those with other chronic diseases and/or with chronic pain (**Susan Sanderson, Carol Ingells, Tracey Ebeling-Cooney**); those with memory loss, and all who love and care for them;
- Persons living with addictions or mental illnesses and their families;
- Persons who are imprisoned or under house arrest, and those who love them;
- Homebound members/friends (**Jan McGough, Yvonne Fairchild, Ben Whitehill, Mary Lou Carson, Sharon Mecklem, Gary Salman**) and those with auto-immune concerns in this time;
- Persons caring for family members, near and far, including **Rebecca Griego, DiAna Gutierrez, Sam Elkind, Pam Homer, Sherry Kelsey, Lib O'Brien, Gloria and Terry Griffin, Craig Hoopes**, and others;
- United Families with extended families in other countries (**Joohee and Lee Rand**, Korea; **Blanca and Bina Surgeon, Zulema and Larry Thorp**, Honduras; **Mindy and Sam Garcia's daughter and son** in Japan; and others); **Carlos Lee and Russell Stowers' exchange student son, Nicolo** who is from Italy;
- Dreamers and their families; children, teenagers, and adults from **Central America, Africa, and the Middle East (particularly Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon)** fleeing violence and seeking refuge in our country; **policymakers** who determine their fate;
- The people of Tennessee following the February tornadoes;
- Our global brothers and sisters who live in the midst of war and violence, racism or poverty;
- Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation;
- Deep prayers for our nation and for all who aspire to leadership—that they and we may be blessed with God's vision of justice, grace, and abundant life for people and all creation.

Congregational Care for April



On Call: John Shaffer (505) 466-4372
Food: June Yoder (505) 503-0555
Hospital: Janyth & Ferol Fell (505) 466-4430

Prayer Chain Keeps Others in Prayer

United has an email prayer chain of people who have offered to hold others in prayer, particularly in difficult times. If you would like to be part of it, please let us know. (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)



Outreach & Adult Forums

April Opportunities to Care and Serve

Sign-up via church.
New helpers always welcomed!

Casa Familia Family Shelter Dinner Wednesday, April 1, 5:00 pm

From frozen lasagna to store-bought cookies, your contribution helps women and children! Please bring food to United by 4:00 pm. (Pam Homer, 310-5639)

Immigration Task Force

Check with Bonney Hughes (bonney@speedycomputing.com) for other immigration outreach.

Equal Exchange Sale Sunday, April 19

Our sale of coffee, tea, almonds, and chocolate supports co-op farmers around the world. Proceeds to Outreach. (Karen Dailey, 819-8868)

St. Elizabeth Dinner Tuesday, April 21, 5:30 pm

Home-cooked or store-bought dishes welcome for our monthly dinner for the men. Please bring food to United by 4:30 pm. (Joanne Rhodes, 302-393-1313)

SUNDAY ADULT FORUMS (9:45 am)

April 19 *Composting – What is It? Why Do It? How to Do It?*

Landscaper Linda Churchill provides the answers in this special Earth Day Sunday Forum!

Outside.



United Sponsors Emergency Fundraiser to address needs of Santa Fe Community and the World

To respond to the emergency needs generated by the global pandemic, United Church invites you to support an All Church Outreach Fundraiser to provide funds for local Santa Fe agencies and also address needs around the world. All donations raised will be evenly split between the Emergency Fund of the Santa Fe Community Foundation (that supports local organizations) and the multi-church offering “One Great Hour of Sharing.”



The Santa Fe Community Foundation was chosen because they have the best “pulse” on local needs and they support Santa Fe organizations (such as the Food Depot, Adelante for students in need, etc.). One Great Hour of Sharing is our annual special United Church of Christ offering

that joins with seven other Protestant denominations to support OGHs’s Empowerment Projects including health care for refugees and immigrants around the world, disaster relief (including the current Covid19 emergency), food, and small farmer programs.

We ask you to be generous. To donate, please mail a check to United Church (1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe 87505), memo: “Emergency Offering.” To donate online, please go United’s website (unitedchurchof.santafe.org). Click on the “give now” button and memo your contribution: “Emergency Offering.” Thank you!



A LOOK BACK, A VISION FOR THE FUTURE UNITED’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

In May 2000, a fire broke out in the Jemez Mtns. The “Cerro Gordo” fire grew quickly from 18,000 to 47,000 acres, becoming the largest fire in New Mexico history. Los Alamos, White Rock and surrounding communities were all evacuated. In that challenging and difficult time, the United Church of Santa Fe community gathered for prayer, to support one another and to care for the wider community. In September 2001, the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history resulted in over 3000 deaths. Again, the United Church community gathered for prayer and support, even long distance, for those impacted by the attack. United also joined in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters who were being stigmatized after 9/11. In August 2005, when the levees of New Orleans broke during Hurricane Katrina, the United Church again gathered for prayer. We also rented a moving van, filled it with supplies donated by the congregation and the wider community of Santa Fe, and drove it to an evacuation center in Houston. Gathering for prayer and the sharing of God’s word. Supporting one another. Caring for the wider community. That’s what God called us to do as the United Church of Santa Fe in the past. That’s what God still calls us to do, now and into the future.

Children's & Youth Ministries

Katie Bickley (katiewbickley@gmail.com)
Bruce Turnquist (turnquistbd@gmail.com)
Emily Syal (unitedchurch.emily@gmail.com)

CHILDREN'S and YOUTH MINISTRY – APRIL 2020

Due to the public health situation, the closing of schools, and the injunction not to gather in larger groups for an indeterminate time, our in-person Children's and Youth Ministry programs at United are in flux. We are staying in touch and providing resources for parents via email, Facebook, and Instagram.

Church Grounds (Reflection Trail, Peace Garden, etc.) Are Open

One of the best ways of staying healthy—mentally spiritually, physically—is by staying outdoors and getting exercise. Thanks to the leadership and perseverance of our Landscape Task Force, United has a wonderful Reflection Trail, a Hozhoni (Blessing) Garden, and plenty of room to run around, while keeping the 6-foot social distance. You and your children are welcome to come any time!

We Continue the Journey to Easter

Activities we planned to do at church can now be done at home!

Palm Sunday and the Last Supper (April 5)

Parade around your yard, make a lot of noise! Then gather for a meal just like Jesus did with his disciples when the cheering stopped.



Maundy Thursday (April 9)

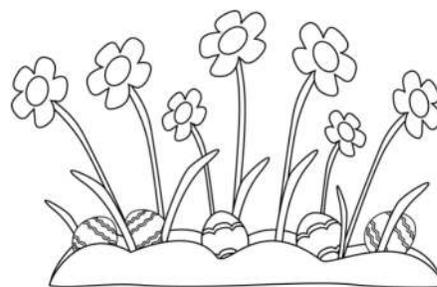
Jesus and his followers gathered in the shadows (Tenebrae). As the day moves into night, gather with your family to do the same. We'll send stories and songs to share.

Good Friday (April 10)

United has a great outdoor space around the turquoise cross. Take time during the day to come by and pray at the cross for our world and one another.

EASTER!

We may offer small outdoor sunrise services – all day long! Stay tuned!



Here's What's Happening for Kids at United (Once We Can All Be Together Again)

Youth Initiates (8th - 9th – 9:45 Sundays)

The "Journey to Adulthood," is a two-year rite of passage for young teens. Led by Pastoral Resident Emily Syal, volunteers, and mentors, the Initiates gather Sunday mornings and for service, overnights, and trips. During Lent, they had been exploring how, in Creation and Biblical stories, they could discover *Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing* (based on a book by Gayle Boss). We will try to continue that online.

Young Adventurers (6th-7th, 11:00 Sundays)

A fun and faith-filled journey! They explore stories, take journeys, and learn how God is at work in their lives and their adventures. (Rebecca Crutchfield, Eddie Napoli-Quisling)

Dynamite Disciples (1st-7th, Sundays, 9:45)

With games, projects, and music, Dynamite Disciples explore faith in a hands-on way! (Katie Bickley, Eddie Napoli-Quisling)

Children's Ministry (Kinders – 5th)
Kinders-Grade 5 (during 11:00 service)
Carrie McCabe (Pre-K and Kinders), 8:30 and 11:00
Katie Bickley and Bruce Turnquist: Elementary, 11:00

Nurture Center—Loving Childcare all Sunday morning
Offered by Rebecca Griego, Carrie McCabe, Sally Greenall, and Robert Spitz

Save the Date!
Santa Fe River Cleanup
Saturday, May 9
9:00 am at Closson St.
pedestrian bridge
off Alameda St.
(across from Salvation Army)

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
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Mailing Date — March 19, 2020

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE

The United Church of Santa Fe invites you to join us as we grow in faith and hope. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, a progressive and inclusive Christian tradition whose roots are the Congregational and Reform Churches that historically emphasized freedom of thought and belief as well as a commitment to the community.

As Christians, we are many individual members, each with different gifts to offer and contributions to make. We are also one body in Christ, members of one another.

As an expression of the practice and conviction of this congregation, we declare ourselves to be an “open and affirming church,” welcoming people who share a faith journey with Christ and who share with us the covenant that binds us together regardless of age, gender, race and ethnic background, mental or physical disability, or sexual orientation. We welcome you!

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT UNITED CHURCH (TO BE REVEALED)

- 7:45 am Early Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30 am Communion Service**, Children’s Ministry
- 9:45 am Adult Forums, Youth Initiates, Dynamite Disciples
- 10:00 am Sanctuary & Kids’ Choirs Rehearsals
- 11:00 am Worship Service**, Children’s Ministry, Young Adventurers
(Holy Communion is celebrated at this service on first Sunday of the month.)

Nursery care for preschoolers is offered throughout the morning in the Nurture Center.