PRAYERS FOR THIS TIME

For All Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all
who wait or work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make them the equal
of whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you.
(Adapted from New Zealand Prayer Book)

For Medical Scientists, Nurses, Doctors, and All Offering Care

G-d of wisdom,
bless medical scientists and researchers around the world
with insight and skill, dedication and fortitude,
as they combat coronavirus,
that their work yields knowledge and understanding,
speedily finding a vaccine, treatments and deterrents to its spread.
Source of life,
grant public health and government officials, doctors, nurses, and aides,
the strength to act swiftly and decisively,
with compassion and understanding,
in service to humankind, fighting this outbreak
and the other diseases that still plague the planet,
diseases threatening the lives of our brothers and sisters,
nations and communities, young and old.
Rock of Ages,
bring an end to disease and suffering,
so that all may know
Your compassion and Your grace.
(Praised are You G-d, healer of flesh, maker of wonders.
(Rabbi Alden Solovy, Pardes Inst. of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem)

For A Child

Bendice a tu hijo, Señor, con tu amor,
con tu esperanza, con tu valor, este día y todos los días.
(Bless your child, Lord, with your love,
your hope, your courage, this day and every day.)

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Dear Friends,

I don’t know if you will receive or read this letter before United’s 40th Birthday (Virtual) Celebration on May 31, but in this time of remembrance and thanks, I wanted to share my pastor’s letter from June 1995, when United turned fifteen:

The Thursday night before our 15th Birthday Celebration, I stayed late at the church to finish some paperwork before heading home. That accomplished, I decided to take a few minutes just to sit in the quiet of the sanctuary. It was going to be a full weekend—with lots of celebration and feelings. Before it all began, I wanted to think about everything (and everyone) who had made that day possible.

The water in the acequia blended with the traffic on St. Michael’s as I sat and watched the light turn from dusk to night. I was about ready to leave when I heard the front door open. My first thought was “Talitha, you idiot—what are you doing here by yourself in the dark?” Headlines of “Minister Mugged” flashed through my mind. [This was before I had a dog :-)]

But then I saw the visitor—a small, thin, old man. He was shorter than I, and he walked with a slow, halting step. “May I help you?” I asked. “I just want to see your sanctuary,” he said, “just be in your church for a little while.”

I took a deep breath, told God (under my breath) “You’re in charge now,” and said to the man, “Sure, make yourself at home. I’ll be in the church office.”

He walked into the darkened sanctuary and just stood looking at the cross in the window and then at the cross of the banner. I went back to the office desk and stuffed bulletins to keep myself busy.

A few minutes later, the old man came back to the desk. “My name is Joe Lucero,” he said again. He turned to go. “I’m glad you did,” I said (and meant it).

“I didn’t know this church was here,” he said, “until I was in the hospital. You have a very beautiful church.”

“Thank you,” I replied. “We’re celebrating our 15th Birthday this Sunday.” I handed him a bulletin.

“You’re ‘quinceañera’” he chuckled as he read the bulletin. “Sí, our quinceañera. You’re invited to come, if you would like.” “Perhaps I will,” the old man said. “I’ll see how I feel. Fifteen years—that’s a long time.” I nodded in agreement.

“My name is Joe Lucero,” he said again. He turned to go. “I’m very glad this church is here,” he said as he went through the door.

“So am I, Joe,” I said. So am I.”

Twenty-five years ago, Mr. Lucero was very glad the United Church of Santa Fe was here. So was I. I still am.

Thank you for being here as the United Church of Santa Fe. And thanks be to God for being in the center of it all.

Blessings,

Talitha
Whacking Away the Vultures
June 7

God gave old Abram a wonderful vision—children and grandchildren as many as the stars in the heaven. To remember the vision, Abram prepared a huge burnt sacrifice of all kinds of meat. But all through the night, he had to drive off the birds of prey to keep the sacrifice pure and the vision possible. (Genesis 15:1-15)

Sometimes we too have to “whack away the vultures” to keep seeing God’s visions and dreaming God’s dreams. I know what my vultures are. What are yours?

Visions for Our Children
June 21

“Gladden the soul of your servant, O Lord,” prays the Psalmist, “for to you I lift up my soul.” The writer envisions God as “good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.” (Psalm 86:4-5) How do we envision God? How do we help our children envision God’s presence and love? Three fathers in our congregation share their reflections.

You’ve Got to be Kidding
June 14

When the octogenarian Sarah overheard three men tell her nonagenarian husband that she was going to have a child, she laughed so hard the tears ran down her face and she had to stuff her apron in her mouth to keep her guests from hearing her. But God made sure who got the last laugh. (Genesis 18:1-15) What dream or vision has God shown you that made you laugh so hard you cried? Or perhaps your tears came from both laughter and a longing so deep you’d forgotten you had it.

Looking Beyond the Expected
June 28

Abraham heard what he thought was God’s voice telling him to sacrifice his son Isaac. That wasn’t surprising. Many religions of his time demanded such sacrifice. It’s the ending of the story that’s the surprise—for Abraham and for us. (Genesis 22:1-14)
Music Notes

As we continue in these days of Covid-19 isolation, we adjust to new realities daily. A summer in Santa Fe without the Opera, Chamber Music Festival, and Desert Chorale is unthinkable. The Opera’s cancelation also means we won’t have the Apprentices in worship.

However, we ARE happy that we will enjoy a number of recorded offerings by United’s talented young musicians this summer! Look for their offerings in our virtual worship services.

As we assess when it will be safe for our choirs to resume, we are committed to maintaining our choir communities. We’ve held choral Zoom meetings regularly and on Wednesday, May 27, Dr. Kathleen Wilson, Professor of Voice at Florida International University in Miami (and a Sanctuary Choir member) teaches a joint session for the Early and Sanctuary Choirs.

Deep thanks to all who sang with the choirs this year. We appreciate your commitment and contributions to United’s worship with your beautiful singing! Thanks to Sanctuary Choir Director Bradley Ellingboe and our Choral Scholars (Nicole Lopez, Yasmeen Lookman, Jonathan Davidson, Gerald Bennett) for singing for our virtual worship!

Finally, on a personal note, a concert I was playing for a Performance Santa Fe’s Festival of Song recital with SF Opera principals, Jack Swanson and Benjamin Taylor, was cancelled. (Jack sang as an apprentice at United a few years ago, and he and I offered a concert at United.) We hope to present the recital in the future.

Stay healthy and remain hopeful!

Jacquelyn

CHRILDREN’S MINISTRY

Children’s Ministry (grades K-6)

Each week parents of our young ones receive songs and prayers to share with their children. We are also organizing a “check-in” time for parents to see what works best for their children in the online time. If it’s possible, we’d like to start the Children’s Garden, too!

Let’s Just Hang Out! (dates TBD)

For all United Youth (grades 6-12)

Let’s find a time for all of us to hang out. Whether it be a virtual hang-out (with games, story sharing, or a talent show), or we meet outdoors on the church grounds keeping a safe distance or go for a hike—it will be fun to just be silly and have a good time with each other. Be on the lookout for emails and calls from Emily Syal to find dates and times we can make this happen.

40th Anniversary Virtual Choir

Dear Friends,

By now most of you will have seen these very impressive virtual choirs that look like they happened on Zoom, or maybe “The Hollywood Squares” (depending on your age, one of those references should make sense) that have been populating the internet. Many of my choral colleagues across the country have been active in creating these types of videos and report to me they take approximately 40 hours of editing to create. So, as you can see, it’s not a project to be undertaken lightly.

That being said, we’re planning to create one with the United choirs in honor of our 40th anniversary! Our goal is to work on this throughout the summer and to be ready with it in late August. We may even incorporate former singers, and people who no longer live in the area but have strong ties to our church.

Keep an eye on these pages for further updates as plans coalesce.

Bradley Ellingboe

YOUTH MINISTRY

Emily Syal

Youth Initiates and Mentors (grades 8-9)

J-Walking: Walking with Jesus, Walking with Justice

It’s June, and time for a J-theme! We’ll explore the intertwined topics of justice and Jesus. What does it mean to walk with Jesus (in ancient times and in our own time)? How do we engage justice “the Jesus way?” Mentors and Initiates explore together throughout June, meeting twice online on Sunday mornings and engaging in a service project.

High School Youth (grades 10-12)

Moving with the Spirit

The Spirit can be the most elusive part of the Trinity to grasp in our understanding and on our continuing faith journeys. So let’s talk about it! Through scripture and discussion, we’ll explore what the Holy Spirit is and how this dynamic presence moves in and through our lives. Where is the Spirit is calling us in this time? High schoolers explore this topic together twice online on Wednesday evenings and through a service project.
CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD

Prayers of Thanks to:

- The Sacred Space Team for the wonderful new Pentecost banner! It was a committee effort that turned out beautifully! Kudos to Dana Hollifield, Karin Anderson, Donna Clark, Debbie Maloney, Nyla Rasmussen, Linda Knapp, and Jennifer Kilbourn – all of whom had a hand in it (literally!);
- Everyone who made our virtual 40th Anniversary Celebration so special;
- The “Web of Care” callers who are keeping in touch with the rest of the congregation and all who are helping us stay connected, sane, faithful, healthy, and hopeful!

Prayers of new life and blessings for:

- All our Graduates: College: Jasper Poppele (Marquette University); High School: Cole Manske (New Mexico School for the Arts); and 8th Grade: Alley Cassidy-Jones (Eldorado Community School), Luci Cassidy-Jones (Eldorado Community School), Makayla Darby (Eldorado Community School), Erika Kelemen (Gonzales Community School), Helena Kelemen (Gonzales Community School), Nathan Kingston (Eldorado Community School), Rylie Philpot (Academy of Technology and Classics);
- Andrea and Steve Hamilton, celebrating the birth of a grandchild, the new son of Maria and Ville;
- Diane Holbrook, as she moves to New Jersey to be closer to family.

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- All affected by the coronavirus, flu, and other illnesses, and those who love and care for them;
- All health care workers, grocery store stockers and clerks, and others on the front lines;
- Those who have lost loved ones, a loss made more difficult in this time of isolation: Jo Rhodes (her brother in Colorado); Fletcher and Diane Catron, following the loss of Fletcher’s father Tom; the Natonabah/McCabe family grieving the loss of their cousin Nathan to Covid19; and others;
- Those recovering from surgery, including Greg Gaertner, 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, 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 (Maggi Konzen (Pam Hyde’s partner), Jan McGough, Carol Ingells, Tracey Ebeling-Cooney, Mary Deane Lynn’s sister); 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;
- Persons at senior care or medical facilities not able to go out or have loved ones visit (Yvonne Fairchild, Mary Lou Carson, Sharon Mecklem, Bobbie Smith, Margo Clark, Linda Dillman, Helen Wagner, David LaPlantz’ sister) and those with auto-immune concerns in this time;
- Persons caring for family members, near and far, including Rebecca Griego, DiAna Gutierrez, Sam and Molly 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 in Honduras; Mindy and Sam Garcia’s daughter and son in Japan; Eva and Lenz Neuhauser’s families in Austria; and others);
- 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;
- 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 governors, health and medical officials, and national leaders that they might have God’s vision of justice, grace, and abundant life for people and all creation.

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<th>Congregational Care for June</th>
<th>Prayer Chain Keeps Others in Prayer</th>
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<td>On Call: Dave Wilkison (505) 400-0504</td>
<td>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. (<a href="mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com">unitedchurchsf@gmail.com</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food: Debbie Maloney (940) 867-2169</td>
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United’s Shelter Dinners Feed Persons Who Are Homeless and Support Santa Fe Businesses! You Can Help!

In May, we increased our commitment to Santa Fe’s Shelters for persons who are homeless. Since it’s not feasible (or safe) to provide food from our individual kitchens, we have contracted with both “Felipe’s Tacos” and, since May, with “Mucho Gourmet Sandwiches,” to provide twice-weekly lunches for 50+ Interfaith Shelter guests and once-weekly sack suppers for 35+ guests. We are also continuing our monthly dinners for St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia (30+ guests for each).

Join in this effort by contributing financially to United’s “Shelter Meals” outreach ministry. The 100+ lunches and 50+ suppers for the Interfaith Shelter cost about $650 each Monday and Thursday. The 30+ dinners for St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia each cost about $250/month. (We supply the side dish, dessert, and salad from a local grocery store and partner with a local restaurant to provide the entree.)

To donate, please send a check to The United Church of Santa Fe, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM 87505 (memo: “Shelter Dinners”). To donate online, go to our website (unitedchurchofsantafe.org) and click the “give now” button and enter your amount of donation in the “Shelter Dinners” box.

Thanks to the generosity of United members and friends and members of the Santa Fe community, since March, we have raised over $6,000 to help feed the homeless in this “Corona-time.”

Casa Familia Family Shelter Dinner Wednesday, June 3

St. Elizabeth Dinner Tuesday, June 16

Interfaith Shelter Monday & Thursday Lunches and Thursday Suppers

United’s Emergency Fund Addresses Needs of Santa Fe and the World

Thank you for your generous response to our call to support an All-Church Outreach Fundraiser. Your donations so far have raised $8,500, split equally for the Emergency Fund of the Santa Fe Community Foundation (that supports local organizations) and for the multi-church international offering “One Great Hour of Sharing.”

Supporting Our Diné/Navajo Brothers and Sisters

The Navajo Nation of northern New Mexico and Arizona has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The systemic issues of poverty, lack of clean water, and inadequate health care impact the rising number of cases and death. The United Church of Santa Fe has a decades-long relationship with the people of the Diné/Navajo Nation. Mary Hasbah Roessel grew up in Round Rock, and her brother, Monty Roessel, is the President of Diné College. Our former Office Administrator Ella Nationabah Jones grew up in Fort Defiance, along with her older sister Helen, mother of United’s Nurture Center teacher Carrie McCabe.

For a number of years, United has had youth and adult service trips to the Good Shepherd Mission in Fort Defiance. Because of this connection, United’s Outreach Team invites your donations to help support Good Shepherd’s relief work with families and elders throughout the area. All financial donations to United for “Diné Support” will be sent directly to Good Shepherd and used to provide food and cleaning supplies. Thank you!

Thank you! Thank you! We are truly grateful for this collection. [$3,290, at the time of this letter] Hope you and yours are healthy and safe during this difficult time. Be well. – W.A. Smith, President & CEO, Santa Fe Community Foundation

Dear Friends at UCSF,

We thank you for your very generous gift of $522 to Tree New Mexico, which we received in latter April 2020.

Your donation goes directly into buying and planting trees for a number of tree planting programs we work on around the state.

We are so grateful to individuals such as yourselves who remember—even in this difficult time—to think about caring for the earth that sustains all of us. – Shannon Horst, Exec. Dir.
Adult Faith Formation

Online Study Opportunities in June
Stuck at home? No place to go? Tired of Netflix? Want to feed your soul (instead of your body😊)? Then join in a summer online Study Course for United members and friends. Because the courses will be on Zoom, you must register in advance by writing to Lin Raymond, Office Administrator, at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Thanks!

Resiliency and Hope
Biblical Stories for Our Time
Thursdays (8:00 to 9:00 am)
From Elijah the Prophet to Ruth and Naomi to Peter and Mary Magdalene, our Biblical faith is filled with stories of people who overcame hardships of all kinds. We start a second 5-week “Resiliency and Hope” Bible study to explore these stories and the lessons they offer in our time.

Lenten Academy Becomes Summer Academy
Our Lenten Study Academy came to an abrupt halt when we cancelled all on-site church gatherings in mid-March due to the coronavirus. But we’ve transformed it into a “Summer Academy!” Both Larry Rasmussen and Emily Syal are re-starting their “Earth-Honoring Faith” classes, beginning anew, on Zoom. The 5-week classes start the week of June 17, through the week of July 17. Class size limited to 12 people. Register by Sunday, June 14 at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
(Larry Rasmussen—Wednesdays at 5:15 pm)
Drawing on her spiritual tradition of the Potawatomi people and her scientific background as a botanist, Kimmerer shows how other living beings offer us gifts and important lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices.

No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference
by Greta Thunberg
(Emily Syal—Fridays at 12:00 Noon)
A collection of 11 speeches on climate change by climate activist Greta Thunberg, including “Our House Is on Fire.” Her book is a rallying cry to wake up and protect the planet, no matter how powerless we may feel.

Explore the Gospel of Luke
with Yale Divinity School!
Tuesday Noon (12:00 to 1:15 pm)
In June we focus on Luke’s version of Jesus’ Parables, his Passion and Resurrection, with pre-recorded conversations with former Dean of Yale Divinity School Harry Attridge and Prof. of Christian Scripture, the late David Bartlett. Participants view the recording ahead of time and then join in a lively discussion with other United members and friends.

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!

Your Financial Support is Appreciated!
As we “shelter in place,” your financial support of the United Church of Santa Fe is even more appreciated! We thank all who made 2020 pledges to United and for keeping up your pledge! If you didn’t make a pledge, you can offer your support by sending a check to United Church of Santa Fe, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM 87505 or online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org (click on “give now” to go to secure online giving). If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us at 505-988-3295 or unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Thank you!

Women’s Study Group
Wednesdays, June 3 & 17, 10:00 am on Zoom
The Women’s Group June book is Women Rowing North by Mary Pipher. Co-leaders are Ann Barker and Ann Wymore. Newcomers welcome!
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!

SUMMER SUNDAY MORNINGS AT UNITED CHURCH (TO BE REVEALED)

Join us in weekly online worship via our webpage (unitedchurchofsantafe.org), on Facebook, or by writing unitedchurchsf@gmail.com and ask to be on our email list. Thank you!

By mid-June, we hope to start small outdoor services (Saturday evening, Sunday mornings). Please email or call the office (505-988-3295) for updates.