

Monthly publication
 United Church of Santa Fe
 Santa Fe, New Mexico
 September 2020

Prayers for September 2020

For the beginning of school

We give you praise, O God,
 for everything that is new and beautiful,
 for everything which holds promise and brings us joy.

Bless us as we start this new year
 with our friends and teachers
 Help us to make the most of every chance we have to start afresh.

May we show love to one another and to all.
 May the new beginning of this school year
 remind us that you give us chances to start over again and again.
 Thank you for this new beginning and the gift of learning,
 whatever our age. Amen.

For Our Nation and World

Let the rain come and wash away
 the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
 held and nurtured over generations.
 Let the rain wash away the memory
 of the hurt, the neglect.

Then let the sun come out and
 fill the sky with rainbows.

Let the warmth of the sun heal us
 wherever we are broken.

Let it push away the fog so that
 we can see each other clearly.

So that we can see beyond labels,
 beyond accents, gender or skin color.

Let the warmth and brightness
 of the sun melt our selfishness.

So that we can share the joys and
 feel the sorrows of our neighbors.

And let the light of the sun
 be so strong that we will see all
 people as our neighbors.

Let the earth, nourished by rain,
 bring forth flowers
 to surround us with beauty.

And let the mountains teach our hearts
 to reach upward to heaven.

Amen.

Rabbi Harold Kushner

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**UNITED CHURCH
OF SANTA FE**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Moderator-Emeritus

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

Bradley Ellingboe
Director of Choirs

Rebecca Crutchfield
Young Adventurers

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,

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," Frodo laments in the first book of The Lord of the Rings. The "it" is the rise of a great evil in his generation. The Dark Lord Sauron seeks to conquer Middle Earth, even if that means destroying it and its people. No wonder Frodo wishes "it need not have happened" in his time.

Frodo's creator, J.R.R. Tolkien, had reason enough to wish the same. By the time he started The Lord of the Rings, Tolkien had already known the heartache and even evil of this world. His father died when he was four, his mother when he was twelve. As he entered college, Europe was already preparing for a great war, and when he graduated, the war was waiting for him. Tolkien and his friends were sent to the Somme into what became one of the bloodiest battles of human history. By the war's end in 1918, Tolkien wrote, "all but one of my close friends were dead."

As he started the Ring trilogy in 1937, another great evil had arisen, or more accurately, two great evils—a world-wide economic Depression and the rise of fascism that led to the second "great war." Frodo echoes his creator's deep longing when he wishes "it need not have happened in my time."

The Hobbit's wizard teacher Gandalf also echoes Tolkien's own experience. "So do I," he says to Frodo, "and so do all who live to see such times. But," he continues, "that is not for them to decide." Then with the wisdom that can come from living through times, Gandalf (and Tolkien) affirm, "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

That is our decision, too, my friends, in this time that has been given us. As we begin the sixth month of corona-time and the 25th week since we last gathered on a Sunday morning (or any other time), like Frodo, Gandalf, and Tolkien, "all we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

This September newsletter offers a number of choices of how to use this time—through worship, prayer, study, care for others and care for this world. We don't have much control over many of the things that are happening in our time. But we can still decide what we do with this time.

May it be a time to go deeper into the relationship with the power and mystery of God. May it be a time to care more deeply for our neighbor and for creation. May it be a time to love this world more deeply than we have ever done before.

May this be the time.

Blessings,



Worship in September

“What Do We Need from God?”

Labor Day Sunday—September 6

“Teach me the way of your statutes,” asks Psalm 119, “give me understanding.” This Sunday, three United members share how they experience God’s presence in their work and what they need from God to do that work.

Wisdom from the Wilderness

The Book of Numbers seldom gets much press, at least not from preachers. The fourth book of the Torah (the first five books of Hebrew scripture) has a lot of lists—two military censuses, the sizes of the 12 Tribes, and lineages of their leaders complete with numbers of wives and children. Hence, “Numbers.” But the Hebrew name for the book—*Bedmidbar*—means “in the wilderness.” It’s the perfect book for our time—or at least for the first month of the fall and our seventh month of corona-time.



“Longing for Cucumbers”

Fiesta Sunday (Wear Red!) – September 13

Two years into their Exodus journey, the Hebrews are tired of traveling, tired of Moses, tired of their daily manna. “Let us go back to Egypt,” they cry to Moses. “We remember the cucumbers, melons, onions, and garlic.” (Numbers 11:1-7) It’s an odd list of longings, but the vegetables reminded them what they really yearned for— a taste (literally) of home. A good story for Communion and Fiesta Sunday! We’ll also receive new members!

Would That All God’s People Were Prophets! **September 20**

Worn out by the people’s constant complaining, Moses complains to God. God tells him to appoint 70 men to receive the Spirit and shoulder some of the burden. They assemble and prophesy. Back at camp, two men—Eldad and Medad—also prophesy which makes the chosen 70 jealous. Moses silences them and proclaims “Would that all God’s people were prophets!” (Numbers 11:10-17; 24-30). What might God be calling us to say and do in our time?

United Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
4:00 to 6:00 pm

All welcome! Simple protocols in place: masks, keep social distance, a limit of 7 people at a time in the Sanctuary, etc.

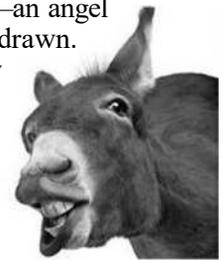


We Seemed Like Grasshoppers **September 27**

Moses sends two spies into Canaan to assess what the Hebrews are up against. They return with stories about the size of the people (gigantic) and their fear. “To ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers.” (Numbers 13) We’re up against some pretty big things right now, individually and as a country. Even when he felt like a grasshopper, Moses believed in a God bigger than his fear. What or whom do we believe in?

Lessons from a Donkey – October 4 **St. Francis and Pet Blessing Sunday**

Balak the King told Balaam the Prophet to curse the Israelites. God told him no, but Balaam feared Balak more than he loved God. On the road to carry out the king’s curse, Balaam’s donkey refuses to go further. Balaam threatens to beat the animal, even kill it, but the donkey won’t budge. When God opens Balaam’s eyes, he sees what his donkey saw—an angel of the Lord, with his sword drawn. (Numbers 22) Balaam’s donkey saved his master’s life. What might God’s creatures and all creation be telling us? A good story for St. Francis Sunday—and our annual Pet Blessing.



In the Midst of New Dimensions is a hymn that never fails to reconnect me to the hope and strength of our faith. Both the tune and the words were written by ordained minister and Colorado Aids Project Director Julian Rush in 1985 on the theme of diversity for the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodists. My history with the hymn is that we often sing it as a closing hymn here at United. The C Major tune climbs in aspiration and rhythmic strength. A march, the tune is enlivened by the dotted rhythms which give it buoyancy. The words speak frankly of divisions, both within the world and within ourselves, and yet also challenge us by asking “who will lift the olive branch and light the flame of care?” Ultimately, whatever changes and challenges we face, the hymn affirms God’s power with the chorus “God of Rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We Your People, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.” In its challenge to us as people of God to tackle issues before us, secure in the constancy of God’s power, this is an amazing hymn of hope.

Jacquelyn Helin
Music Director and Pianist



LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS
Words by Jan Struther (1931)
Sung to the Irish tune *Slane*

This has been one of my favorite hymns since first learning it over 40 years ago. Although it’s one of the most beloved hymns of the Church of England, it did not make it into my consciousness until it appeared in the Lutheran Book of Worship in 1978.

The text has four stanzas, and each ends with a bid asking God’s help at different times of the day. Stanza one speaks of the break of day. Stanza two sings of noon. Stanza three of the evening and the final stanza speaks of sleeping. These are, of course, also metaphors for periods of life. The point being no matter where we are on the journey God is right there beside us.

I’ve heard the piece sung at baptisms, funerals, and services commemorating new beginnings, for example a new school year. It’s eminently singable tune and comforting text have helped me in times of joy and of sorrow.

Bradley Ellingboe
Director of Choirs



None of us know what might happen
even the next minute,
yet still we go forward.
Because we trust. Because we have
FAITH.

Support Our *Faith in the Future* Appeal!

While we are “United (apart)”, the Church Council and United leadership continue their work to keep the church financially sound. This past March, the Church Council voted to pay off the last three years of the church mortgage using non-operating-budget funds. This allowed us to take advantage of significant savings in the annual budget.

Even with these savings, we anticipate a shortfall in operating funds over the next 18 months due to reduced pledge and non-pledge (offering plate) income. Without in-person services and with the difficult economic situation, this reduced income will likely continue. In addition, expenses have increased with videotaping worship services and expanded weekday janitorial services. We also need to hire staff for children/youth and administrative duties to keep our church functioning and keep our children, youth, and families engaged as we enter the fall.

On August 10 we began our *Faith in the Future* Appeal. The Victory goal is \$75,000 (and the Challenge Goal is \$100,000) to fill the gap in operating funds we anticipate through 2020 and into the new year. To date, we have received \$30,300, with another \$16,000 in pledges. Together we can raise this \$75,000 so United worship services, youth and adult education, virtual programs, and outreach engagements may continue for our faith community and those around us.

We hope you’ll join in! All gifts, large or small, are important as together we build our “Faith in the Future!” For more information contact Bob Ansheles, Moderator or Pam Hyde, Stewardship & Finance Ministry Team Chair. Thank you!



CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks to:

- **Bob Ansheles**, for his faithful and insightful leadership over the past 5 years (Moderator for the last three years and on the Council two years prior). He has led United through many transitions and challenges, and helped us keep the faith and our sense of humor all the way.

Prayers of new life and blessings for:

- **Meredith Rose Ross**, daughter of Betsy and Jaycob and sister of Adyson, baptized August 15;
- **Cole Manske**, starting freshman year at Northern Arizona University; **Jasmine Elias-Ballard**, starting at Denver Metro University; **Jonathan Tibbets**, sophomore at Texas Christian University;
- New freshmen starting high school (**Nathan Kingston, Rylie Philpot, Erika and Hela Kelemen, Makayla Darby, Luci and Ailey Cassidy-Jones**); **Tenzing Manske**, returning to school in Minnesota;
- **Cheryl Killion**, moving to North Carolina; **Ann Wymore**, moving to Illinois; **Betsy and Dave Bueschel**, moving later this fall to Chicago.
- The new Church Council (**Pam Hyde**, Moderator; **Bob Ansheles**, Moderator-Emeritus; **Sam Elkind**, Treasurer and Stewardship/Finance Chair; **Bruce Turnquist**, Secretary; **Dave Feldt**, Property/Maintenance; **Karen Dailey**, Outreach; **Dusty Pruitt**, Discipleship Development; **Jim Ekstrand**, Personnel; **Marcom Herren**, Adult Faith Development).

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- All affected by the coronavirus and other illnesses, and those who love and care for them;
- **Blanca Surgeon**, whose parents are dealing with high blood pressure and other health issues, and whose village in Honduras has an 80% Covid19 rate, with many deaths;
- Health care workers, grocery store stockers and clerks, educators; and others on the front lines;
- Those who have lost loved ones, including **Sheila Hyde**, whose mother passed away in Mississippi; **Jere Turner**, whose sister died in Kansas City;
- **Eric Manske**, recovering from a bike accident and major surgery; **Dave Feldt's** 90-year-old mother recovering from a broken hip; **Bill Brown**, dealing with a new cancer diagnosis;
- Those with family members and loved ones who have Covid-19 and/or in high risk groups;
- **Bill Hultquist, Cliff Beck, Sandy Vermillion, Hugo Steensma, Eric Manske's father, Monsignor Jerome Martinez**, and others living with various neurological conditions;
- Persons living with cancer and those who love and care for them (**Julia Moore, Greg and Linda Gaertner, Sally Greenall**, and others); and those with other chronic diseases and/or with chronic pain (**Jan McGough, Carol Ingells, Mary Deane Lynn's sister**); those with memory loss, and all who 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 in lockdown (**Yvonne Fairchild, Mary Lou Carson, Sharon Mecklem, Bobbie Smith, Margo Clark, Linda Dillman, Helen Wagner, Marge Ribe, David LaPlantz's sister**);
- 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, Sam Gerberding**, and others;
- United Families with extended families in other countries (**Joohee and Lee Rand, Korea; Mindy and Sam Garcia's daughter and son** in Japan; **Eva and Lenz Neuhauer's families** in Austria, **John Walker's sisters** in Scotland; and others);
- Immigrant children, teenagers, and adults fleeing violence and poverty, seeking refuge in our country; **policymakers** who determine their fate;
- Persons speaking out and standing up for racial justice in our country and around the world;
- Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation;
- Deep prayers for our nation and for all governors, health and

Dear United Family,
 Thanks to each you who provided delicious meals, sent notes, prayers, and healing thoughts during the time after my breaking my wrist and post surgery. I am in therapy until mid Sept. and well on the way to healing! Roger and I deeply appreciate your care and concern.
 In Peace, Hope and Love...and Stay Well,
 Linda Knapp

<p>Congregational Care for September</p> <p>On Call: Dusty Pruitt (302) 393-3265 Food: Nevanne Merrill (505) 310-1821 Hospital: deferred due to pandemic</p>	
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<p>Prayer Chain Keeps Others in Prayer</p> <p>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.</p>	
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Outreach Opportunities: Go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe NM 87505.

United's Shelter Dinners Feed Persons Who Are Homeless and Also Support Santa Fe Businesses!

We can't provide "home-cooked" meals for Santa Fe's Shelters, so we contracted with "Felipe's Tacos" to provide 100 lunches and Mucho Gourmet for 35 suppers for the Interfaith Shelter every week, as well as monthly suppers for St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia (35 guests each). Please memo your donation "Shelter Dinner." Thank you!

**St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Family Shelters Dinners
Monday, Sept. 7**

**Interfaith Shelter
Monday & Thursday Lunches
and Thursday Suppers**

Cards and Cookies for Hospital Workers!

Hospital medical personnel along with housekeeping and maintenance staff, continue on the front lines. Show your support by a.) writing cards of care and support and b.) making cookies for hospital staff. Drop them off at United (please list ingredients). We'll get them to the hospital. Thank you!

United's Immigration Task Force Hosts Zoom Discussion of "Immigration Nation" Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 5:30 pm

"Immigration Nation" is a new 6-part Netflix documentary series. Difficult to watch, it captures the violence perpetrated by ICE and the current administration against immigrant communities. The filmmakers were given exclusive access to ICE—interviewing officers, filming inside detention camps and even riding along on raids. What they recorded shows an accurate and disturbing truth about ICE. United's Immigration Task Force encourages you to watch the series and then engage in a zoom discussion on Wed., Sept. 23 at 5:30. Register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. For more info, contact Bonney Hughes (bonney@speedingcomputer.com) or Avril Ekstrand (avrilekstrand@yahoo.com).

United's "Give Bach" Concerts Raise \$500 for Communities in Schools

Many thanks to Jack and Sasha Smucker, and their mother Jessica, for the two July "Give Bach" concerts that raised \$500 for Communities in Schools, a school advocacy and student support organization that United Church of Santa Fe started through the Salazar School/United Church Partnership 25 years ago! Over the summer, the Smuckers gave 31 "Give Bach" concerts, raising a total of \$6,225 for CIS! What a blessing!

Call for Prayers

Can you pray each day for a child in our congregation? United's Prayer Child program matches each young person (birth through first year of college) with an adult who covenants to pray for them every day. It's simple and powerful! Let Talitha Arnold (988-3295) or Gail Ansheles (608-335-4774) know you're interested. Thank you!

Children's Ministry

Wisdom from the Wilderness

Each week United's parents receive a child-based reflection on next Sunday's Bible story, along with ways to make the story come alive for kids. We also include pictures of their interpretations in worship. In September, they'll explore three stories about being in the wilderness—they'll long for cucumbers, find their voices, and feel like grasshoppers! If you'd like your kids (or grandkids) to join in, let Talitha know! (unitedchurch.talitha@gmail.com).

**Cucumbers and Cookies
Fiesta Sunday, Sept. 13**

Fiesta Sunday (Sept. 13) when the adults hear a story about people who longed for cucumbers, onions and garlic, United's children and youth are invited to take cookies to our Fire Department neighbors up the street! We'll gather at 10:00 (masked, of course) and keep social distance as we walk up Arroyo Chamiso to the Fire Station. You can help by bringing cookies to United the week before (Sept. 7-11).

Youth Ministry

Get Rid of the Gloomies!

Fiesta Friday – Sept. 11—5:30 to 7:00 pm

Online school getting you down? Tired of Zoom meetings? Want life to go back to normal? We can't promise to make that happen, but on Fiesta Friday, we invite United Youth (6th through High School) to "Get Rid of the Gloomies!" We'll gather at 5:30 (masked and distanced), have a box supper, and then turn back to ashes things that are getting us down and give thanks to God for all the good stuff that is still happening! Join in!

Youth Initiates Start 2nd Year of "Journey to Adulthood"

On-site when possible, on Zoom when not, our 12 ninth and tenth graders begin the next stage of their journey from childhood to adult life.

Young Adventurers Undertake New Adventures
When just getting through a day is an adventure, our 7th and 8th graders are also continuing the adventure of growing into adolescents. Keep them and their parents in your prayers!

11th/12th Graders Look to the Future

Two of them are Seniors, four are Juniors, all are thoroughly in the moment and also looking ahead to what comes after High School. May they know that they have our support and prayers!

Adult Faith Formation

Online Study Opportunities in September

Register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Resiliency and Hope **Biblical Stories for Our Time** **Thursdays (8:00 to 9:00 am)**

Want a midweek injection of hope and insight? Join in the “Hope and Resilience” Study zoom group on Thursday mornings, 8:00 to 9:00. All welcome! Register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Explore the *Acts of the Apostles* **with Yale Divinity School!** **Tuesday Noon (12:00 to 1:15 pm)** **Starts August 25**

Take a journey of faith (through storms at sea, court trials, earthquakes, and everyday life) with “The Acts of the Apostles,” one of the most entertaining and relevant books in the Bible. Through recorded conversations with Yale Divinity School Dean Emeritus Harry Attridge and the late Prof. David Bartlett and a lively discussion, we’ll journey with Peter, Saul (aka Paul), the wealthy Lydia, an Ethiopian Eunuch, and Eutychus, who fell asleep during a sermon :-). All welcome! Let Talitha know you’re interested.



Democracy Values & the 2020 Election ***A Reflection Guide for Faith Communities***

When we vote, we don’t just choose a candidate. We express our values. Thanks to two interreligious education and advocacy organizations, *Faith in Public Life* and *Interfaith Power & Light* (IPL), a new voter’s guide offers a step-by-step process to clarify our values as we prepare to vote this November. A sample of the sections gives the scope of its offerings: *Democracy and Voting Rights*, *Climate Justice for Our Children and World*, *Loving Our Immigrant Neighbors*, *Moral Health Policies in a Time of a Pandemic*, *Restorative and Racial Justice*.

The guide is non-partisan and endorses no candidates. Instead it focuses on the issues and values at stake. It is faith-based and addressed to all persons of good will. If ever there was a time for people of moral courage to step up and vote their values, it is now. Check out this valuable guide at <https://www.faithclimatejusticevoter.org/> or go to www.faithinpubliclife.org and www.interfaithpowerandlight.org.

Coming Up the Last Weekend of August

40th Annual Meeting of the United Church! **Sunday, Aug. 30 – 10:00 am via Zoom**

We review the past year, elect a new Council and give thanks for all God’s blessings! Register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

United’s Music Director and Steinway Artist **Jacquelyn Helin**

J.S. Bach’s Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I
Livestreamed on Sat., Aug. 29 (7:00-9:00 pm)

Tickets: nmpas.org



Women’s Study Group

Starts Fall with Hillerman’s “*The Tale Teller*”

Best-selling author Anne Hillerman’s latest mystery, “The Tale Teller” is the September selection for the Women’s Study Group that meets via Zoom at 10:00 am, Thursday, Sept. 2 and Wednesday, Sept. 16. All women welcome. Contact Ann Barker (670-3383) for info.

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

Stay healthy—mentally spiritually, physically—by staying outdoors and getting exercise. Thanks to United’s Landscape Task Force, we have 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!

Will You Commit to Pray Daily **at 7:00 am, 12:00 noon, and/or 8:00 pm?**

Prayer is the glue that holds a community together. It also opens us to God’s Spirit, wisdom and power and connects us to one another in the human family and to all creation. Make a daily commitment to set aside a time—and let us know!

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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)

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!