

Monthly publication

United Church of Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

February 2023

PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY

A Prayer of Praise for Groundhog Day (from Psalm 104)

Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great.
You make the clouds your chariot.
You set the earth on its foundations.
You create high mountains as a home for wild goats.
The rocks are a refuge for groundhogs.
O Lord, how great are your works!
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

A Prayer for Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) (from the Prophet Isaiah, 25:6-10)

On this mountain God will make a feast for all peoples,
A feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow.
Thank you, Lord,
for the ways you feed our deep hungers with your deep love.

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday (from Psalm 51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love;
According to thy abundant mercy, blot out my sins.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Restore me to the joy of thy salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

A Prayer of Love for Valentine's Day (from Song of Solomon, 7:6-7)

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
For love is stronger than death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
Open us, God, to your unquenchable love.

A Prayer for Children

Bless (child's name) with your love, O Lord.
May every experience they have of love
be an experience of Your love. Amen.

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**UNITED CHURCH
OF SANTA FE**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Caleb Omolo
Children's Assistant

**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,

There once was a man named Jacob who tricked his father and cheated his brother and then ran away far into the desert wilderness to escape. That night with only a stone for a pillow, Jacob had a wondrous dream of a ladder of angels ascending from earth and descending from heaven. He awoke from his dream and proclaimed "Surely God was in this place, and I did not know it."

Jacob was still in the desert when he had his dream. He was still on the run, and he was still Jacob, a name that means "Grabber." Yet even in that desert time, desert place, desert person, he could affirm surely God was still present.

I think that's the first lesson of a Desert Faith.

There once were a people named the Israelites who were slaves in a foreign land. But when God heard their cries and brought them out to freedom, God also led them into a desert wilderness where they lived for 40 years. It took that long to learn that the only way to live in the desert was to live together.

I think that's another lesson of a Desert Faith.

There once was a woman named Hagar who was exiled to a harsh and dry desert by her owners. Alone and bereft, she was preparing to die when an angel appeared and pointed her toward food and water. Sometimes unexpected angels or hidden streams can offer hope in the most fearsome of deserts.

Yet another lesson of a Desert Faith.

This February, as I shared recently, I am giving a series of presentations and engaging in conversations at Yale Divinity School on "A Desert Church for a Desert Time." It's a chance to share what we've learned from the stories of people like Jacob, Hagar, or the Israelites in the desert places and times of their lives. It's also a chance to share what lessons of faith, hope, or love we've learned from living in the high desert of northern New Mexico.

I suspect that most of the students, and faculty, have come from much greener corners of this continent. The landscape of their lives is likely one of forests and meadows, prairies and lowlands.

Yet even if they've never seen an actual desert, I imagine most of the students, and faculty, have known desert times and desert places in their lives. Their deserts may not be called Sinai or Sonoran. Instead they may have names like divorce or downsizing, layoffs or illness, but they are still desert places and desert times.

Perhaps by sharing the hope, dreams, and angels we've known as a desert church, others might find such blessings in their desert places and times, too. Perhaps, like Jacob, they and we will once again know "surely God was in this place," even if we didn't know it.

Blessings,



Worship in February

LIGHT IN THE WILDERNESS Moving from Epiphany into Lent

The Season of Light (aka “Epiphany”) leads us into the wilderness season of Lent. We begin February worship with FebFest, welcoming nationally known African American composer and conductor Dr. André Thomas (Feb. 5), followed by the celebration of Mardi Gras (Feb. 19), and then plunge into the shadows of Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22) as we begin Lent’s journey. Yet even in the shadows, our faith promises that the journey leads to new life. Join in—and invite a friend!

8:30 Contemplative Communion — 10:00 Sanctuary Service with Choir and special music
Online services continue, too!

Which Light Are We Following? **January 29**

How do we know it’s God’s light we’re following? How do we discern God’s will—individually, as a church, and especially for our ministry with children, youth, and families? The Prophet Micah (6:8-9) is a good place to start: “What does God require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.” And so are Jesus’ Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). Let both prophets be our guides.

Way Over in Beulah Lan’! **FebFest 2023 – February 5**



We welcome internationally known conductor and composer Dr. André Thomas as our guest in worship. Dr. Thomas, Professor Emeritus from Florida State University, is currently Associate Artist for the London Symphony Orchestra and has taught and led choral groups around the world. He will share music and insights from the African American Christian traditions that have kept faith and hope alive through slavery, Jim Crow, oppression, segregation, and violence. An inspirational morning of music and wisdom—a great time to bring friends!

Choose Light! **February 12**

Before the Israelites leave their 40-year sojourn in the wilderness, Moses offers them his final wisdom. (Deuteronomy 30:15-20) Simply, “Choose life” or in keeping Epiphany’s theme, “Choose Light!” In worship this Sunday, we welcome three United members to share how they try to make that choice in their workaday lives. Their stories can help us find our way, too.

Carrying the Light **Mardi Gras Sunday** **February 19**

After Peter, James, and John make it to the top of a high mountain with Jesus, the three disciples see Jesus in glorious light. Not surprisingly, they want to stay in that mountaintop glory, but God tells them to listen to Jesus, which means they need to follow where he leads—down from the mountain to offer God’s light, life, and hope to others. Guided by the Andy Kingston Trio, we’ll take that journey, too. Bring a friend to our annual, toe-tapping Mardi Gras service!



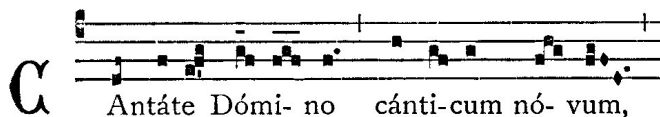
Lent Begins!

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 22 **12:00 Noon and 7:00 pm**

“Create in me a clean heart,” prays the composer of Psalm 51, “and renew a right spirit within me.” A new heart and a steadfast spirit—a good starting point for Lent’s journey. When we turn our fears and sins back to dust and come for the marking of ashes, may we join with the Psalmist—and commit our hearts and spirits to a new and right relationship with God, our neighbor, and all creation.

What Do We Really Want? **1st Lent – February 26**

Deep in the wilderness, the Devil of Doubt entices a hungry Jesus to turn stones into bread. The Devil says to Jesus over and over: “If you are really the Chosen One....” To face down the Great Distractor, Jesus must remember what he really hungers for. “We do not live by bread alone,” he affirms, “but by every word from the mouth of God.” (Matt.4:1-11) What are our deep hungers? Lent begins with that question.



Music Notes

by Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music

February will be a busy and exciting month for United's music program! We begin with FebFest on the 4th and 5th, including a visit from our special guest in our service that Sunday morning, the distinguished Dr. André Thomas. Less than a week later, 19 members of United's Sanctuary Choir combine with *Coro Lux* and the New Mexico Philharmonic to present Beethoven's majestic *Ninth Symphony* in Popejoy Hall on the UNM campus on Saturday, February 11th at 6:00 pm. (For more tickets go: <https://nmphil.org/event/the-greatest-beethovens-9th-february-11-2023/>)

Later in February we begin our Lenten journey, with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22nd. But until then we continue in the season of Epiphany, whose overarching theme is one of light. "Light" is the theme of all our choral anthems up until, and including, the final Sunday of Epiphany, February 19th when we celebrate Mardi Gras Sunday. This year we once again welcome the Andy Kingston Trio, so get ready to wear your beads and masks and let's raise the roof!

Tune in next month for an article on the music and themes of Lent. See you in church!

Brad



United's Sanctuary Choir with the New Mexico Philharmonic Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023 – 6:00 pm

Our Sanctuary Choir, together with Albuquerque's *Coro Lux*, will join forces with the New Mexico Philharmonic in Beethoven's magnificent Ninth Symphony, including the choral finale known as "Ode to Joy." The concert is one night only, in Popejoy Hall on the UNM campus, on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm. For more info and to buy tickets go to nmphil.org/event/the-greatest-beethovens-9th-february-11-2023/.

United's Website and YouTube Channel

Past worship services and much more are available on our website (unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Many more worship service videos can be found on our YouTube Channel. Go to YouTube and search for "United Church of Santa Fe."



FebFest 2023

Saturday, Feb. 4
Workshops, Rehearsals
9:00 am—5:00 pm
(at United)

Sunday, Feb. 5
10:00 am—Worship Service
(at United)

Sunday, Feb. 5
3:00 pm—Concert
(Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis)

For the past several years United and *Coro Lux* have collaborated in an annual event called FebFest. This year's will be the biggest and best one yet! Our special guest is Dr. André Thomas, composer, conductor, current president of the American Choral Directors Association, and Associate Artist/Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra. The event is open to all interested singers with rehearsals and workshops taking place on Saturday, February 4, 2023.

The festival choir's work will culminate in a free concert at The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis at 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 5, at which a free-will offering will be taken to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Those interested in participating as singers should go to abqcorolux.org/tickets/ to register. The cost for singers is \$75, which includes sheet music and lunch on Saturday, plus all the workshops and rehearsals.



United receives a percentage on all purchases at Smith's when you use your Smith's rewards card at check out at no additional cost to you. To register your rewards card online, go to www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations, sign into your account, look for "Inspiring Donations Program," and type in "The United Church of Santa Fe." Thanks!



CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks to:

- **Maggie Popp**, who continues to volunteer weekly in the church office;
- **Director of Music Brad Ellingboe and Pianist Jessie Lo**, for helping the Sanctuary Choir prepare to sing in the NM Philharmonic's concert of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (Feb. 11) and for Brad's development of FebFest 2023, a choral festival and concert featuring Dr. André Thomas in a celebration of African American sacred music traditions (Feb. 4-5).

Blessings and New Life for:

- **Hank Hughes**, retiring as Director of NM Coalition for Homelessness; **Katherine Freeman**, retiring as ED for Growing Up New Mexico.
- **Linda Churchill**, new Director of Horticulture at the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens.

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- **Russell Stowers and Carlos Lee**, following the death of Russell's stepfather in Texas; **Stephanie Hubley**, whose grandmother passed away in December; prayers also for former members **Janine Sieja and Steve Yore** and their son **Abel**, following the death of their son Eli this past year in Minnesota;
- **Betty Bordner**, recovering from recent hospitalization; **Meredith Busco**, dealing with infection; **Kay Burr**, following cancer surgery;
- **All living with Covid, RSV, flu, or other illnesses**, and their family members and the nurses, doctors, and others who care for them;
- Persons living with cancer and those who love and care for them (**Anna Spalding, Tom Himrod's sister**, and others); **Jeff Pursley** (Jody Spalding's brother) with a recurrence of esophageal cancer;
- **Cliff Beck, Sandy Vermillion, Monsignor Jerome Martinez, Karl Ray**, and others living with neurological issues; **Brooke Roberts, Jan McGough, Ed Barker**, and others living with chronic pain or illness;
- **Individuals and families dealing with mental health issues** (If you, a family member, friend, or co-worker is struggling emotionally, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988) provides 24/7, free and confidential support and crisis resources for people in distress);
- Persons who are imprisoned and those who love them;
- Persons at senior facilities (**Vi Varble** in Texas; **Helen Natonabah McCabe, Yvonne Fairchild, Natalie Wells, Margo Clark, Helen Wagner, Karl Ray, Merry and Al Converse, Jere Turner**, and others);
- Persons caring for family members, near and far: **Linda Eccard, Dave Feldt, Molly Elkind, Sam Gerberding, Bonney Hughes, Maria Navarette**, and others;
- **Jessie Lo and her extended family in Taiwan**, as tensions with mainland China increase;
- Other United members and friends with extended families in other countries **Blanca Surgeon and Zulema Zambrano** (Honduras), **Maria Navarette** (El Salvador, Mexico), **Jan and Kitty Jansen** (Netherlands), **Joohee and Lee Rand** (Korea), **Caleb Omolo** (Kenya), **Eva and Lenz Neuhauser** (Austria), **John Walker** (Scotland), **Avril and Jim Ekstrand** (Ireland), **Victoria and Joe Ubben** (Germany), **Kim Zeilik** (Spain), and others;
- People and communities that have been devastated by floods in California and other climate catastrophes;
- Families and communities whose lives have been shattered by gun violence; prayers for our legislators and others to have the courage to enact sane and safe gun restrictions;
- The people of Ukraine, Yemen, Somalia, Haiti, Central America, and other countries impacted by war and violence; immigrant children, teenagers, and adults fleeing violence and poverty, seeking refuge in our country; **policymakers** who determine their fate;
- Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation;
- Prayers for an end to the pandemic and an end to violence and war.

Congregational Care for February



On Call: June Yoder (505) 503-0555
Food: Debbie Maloney (940) 867-2169

Prayer Chain Keeps Others in Prayer

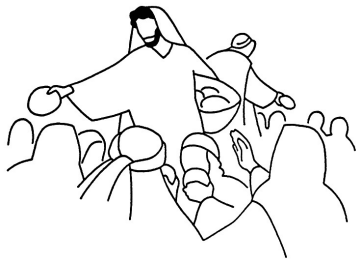
United has an email prayer chain of people who have offered to hold others in prayer, particularly in difficult times. If you would like to be part of it, please let us know. (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)



United's Children have a "Year of Helping"
Love God by Loving Neighbor and Creation!
Sunday Mornings during 10:00 Worship
(Gail Ansheles, Maria Navarette, Caleb Omolo)

Supper for our neighbors who are unhoused. Hygiene and Baby Kits for our neighbors in Ukraine and Puerto Rico. Cards for our neighbors at the Mexico/U.S. border. Bringing our family's food waste to compost.

Each Sunday, United's children (through 5th grade) learn new ways to "love God, Neighbor, and Creation." They start worship with the adults and older youth and then go to Children's Ministry for different hands-on projects to care for others. They learn about Jesus by doing what Jesus did—care for the sick, reach out to the lonely, welcome the stranger, and love this earth. All welcome—and bring friends!



Jan. 29: Feeding

Just as Jesus fed hungry people, so do United's kids. This Sunday, our youngest ones assemble vegetable casseroles for the guests of Santa Fe shelters—170 suppers in all!

Feb. 5: Writing and Drawing

Jesus told his disciples to share the good news that God was—and is—with all of us. United's kids share that good news by writing cards to members and friends who need a reminder of God's love—and our love—for them.

Feb. 12: Creating with the Creator

Where and how do we see God in this world? How can we love the world and all creation as God loves?



Feb. 19: Singing and Toe-Tapping Mardi Gras Sunday

Mardi Gras is a whole church celebration, with the Andy Kingston Jazz Trio. The kids stay in the service to lend their voices!

Feb. 26: Cooking and Feeding First Sunday of Lent

Once again, the children prepare veggie casseroles to provide food that warms the bodies and souls of persons who are unhoused.

Friday Family Supper Bags Jan. 27 and Feb. 24

Thanks to Karen Wilbanks and her crew of great cooks, each month United provides "Supper Bags" to the hard-working parents and families of United. Each bag includes a hot entrée (e.g., lasagna, burritos), salad mix, fruit, and dessert. Let us know if you like one! (And let us know if you'd like to help by cooking or shopping.)



Can You Read a Story? Sing a Song?

Volunteer to help with Children's Ministry!

United's Children's Ministry is blessed with the great volunteer leadership of Gail Ansheles and Karen Wilbanks, as well as Children's Assistants Maria Navarette and Caleb Omolo. You can help, too, by volunteering to read a story, sing a song, or help with a particular Sunday project. Let Karen Wilbanks or Talitha Arnold know how and when you can lend a hand – and a heart!



YOUTH MINISTRIES

(Gather in the downstairs Youth Room.)

Young Adventurers (5th - 7th) – Sundays at 10:00 am

Youth Initiates (8th - 10th) – Sundays at 11:15 am

JAS (Juniors and Seniors) – Monthly for Special Events

Young Adventurers

(Sundays during the 10:00 service)

- Feb. 5:** Enjoy FebFest service with family!
- Feb. 12:** **How the World Guides Teens** – We explore how different cultures and religions guide and support their youth in their spiritual paths.



- Feb. 19:** Enjoy the Mardi Gras service!
- Feb. 26:** **Letting Go of Worldliness** – We think about what we can let go of to make room for new life, then write them on slips of seeded paper and plant them.

Youth Initiates

(Sundays at 11:15 am)

- Feb. 5:** **The Spirit Riddle** - What is this thing called the Holy Spirit?
- Feb. 12:** **Mind/Body/Soul Connection** – We use Seamus Heaney's story of "St. Keven and the Blackbird" to shape the discussion.
- Feb. 19:** Enjoy the Mardi Gras service! (No class after the service.)
- Feb. 22:** **Ash Wednesday service** – We'll share in leadership in the 7:00 pm service.
- Feb. 26:** **Letting Go of Worldliness** – We think about what we can let go of to make room for new life, then write them on slips of seeded paper and plant them.



Save the Date!!!



Fun Night
Pizza + Painting



Friday, Feb. 24, 6:30-8:30 pm
Youth Initiates &
JAS Youth (senior high +)

We're going to make a giant canvas mural to decorate the Youth Room.
Come for the ZA,
stay for the ART!

In December, our Young Adventurers, Youth Initiates, and JAS groups hosted a tamalada (tamale-making party) to ring in the holidays. Parents and Mentors had a chance to socialize, and we all enjoyed our homemade tamale dinner, including an out-of-this-world salad made by Jessica Smucker! Thank you, Jessica, for all that you contributed, and thank you to the twenty partygoers!



Adult Faith Formation

Larry Rasmussen, Chair

FEBRUARY SUNDAY FORUMS (11:15 after 10:00 worship)

FebFest 2023

Feb. 5

An informal time after worship with our dialogue preacher and conductor Dr. André Thomas.

Barriers at the Border

Feb. 12

The Immigration and Refugee Task Force invites you to hear immigration attorney and activist Allegra Love, founder of the Santa Fe Dreamers Project and El Paso Immigration Collaborative and author of an immigration policy newsletter and columns for Source NM. She will speak about the legal challenges and difficult conditions facing asylum seekers. She believes that immigration detention should be abolished and that seeking protection across borders should be safe and dignified.

All-Church Mardi Gras Brunch!

and

“United by the Numbers”

Feb. 19

What better way to celebrate “Fat Tuesday” (two days early) than with an All-Church Brunch?! We’ll provide the food and coffee. You provide the fellowship and good conversation. In addition, for those who are interested, the Stewardship and Finance Team will offer an overview of United’s proposed 2023 budget and other financial information. Join in!

Congregational Mid-Winter Budget Meeting

February 26 – 11:15 am

(In lieu of Adult Forum)

Join in the Congregational Budget Meeting on Sunday, February 26 after the 10:00 service. It’s a chance to learn how United funds all of our ministries, from children and youth to worship and music to outreach and maintaining the building and grounds. We’ll also discuss (and hopefully, approve :-)) the proposed 2023 United Ministries Budget (copies available Sunday, Feb. 19). Thank you in advance for your participation!



Lenten Retreat Saturday, Feb. 25 (8:30 am to 12:30 pm)

Come away to a quiet place the first Saturday of Lent. Reflection, worship, silence, and solitude—a great way to begin Lent. More information to come, but if you’re interested, please sign up today!

unitedchurchsf@gmail.com

Lenten Series Start in Early March What Do You Want to Explore?

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. As we plan for United’s Lenten Study Series (during the week and also during the Sunday Forums), we welcome your ideas and interests. Past Lenten programs have focused on particular books or themes of the Bible; topics like “Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Life and Witness,” the “Faith of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” or discipleship development through prayer or reflection. Let us (Adult Faith Formation Chair Larry Rasmussen or Talitha Arnold) know what would feed your spirit and ground you in the faith this Lent!



Julian of Norwich

Update on Christian Mystics Class

Due to the enthusiastic response to a possible Zoom course on Christian Mystics, I (Talitha) am rethinking the class format and also possible times (which may mean offering it twice in the same week). We probably won’t start until late February, and I appreciate your patience and interest!

Wednesday Women’s Study Group

February 1 and 15 – 10:00 am

We finish our discussion of *The Gates of Europe: History of Ukraine* by Serhii Plokhy and begin Alka Joshi’s *The Henna Artist*. All women welcome! (Barbara MacPhee, macphee.b@gmail.com)

Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls

Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom

Exercise your mind and your soul each week by exploring the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. Join in to deepen your faith and share the journey. All welcome! People tune in from all around the country.

Pretty Good Guys

The Pretty Good Guys are a group of men who do everything from discussing theology to rolling burritos. At this writing their February schedule is a work-in-progress, but if you’d like more information, please contact either Ken Bordner (585-734-4548) or Greg Gaertner (505-428-8910).

Special Announcements

A “Living Endowment”

Leaving a Legacy

The Revs. Mary and Shirley Greene were United Church of Christ ministers who retired to Santa Fe in the early 1980's. Mary had served small churches in Colorado. Shirley (who was named before Shirley Temple made his name a popular girl's name) was on the UCC global ministries staff. Mary created United's Children's Ministry and played for Sunday services when United couldn't afford a pianist. She co-led a nursing home ministry and volunteered with Ben and Carolyn Whitehill at the State Penitentiary. Shirley founded Santa Fe Habitat for Humanity—and got the rest of United involved, too—and started New Mexico Conference of Churches.

When Mary and Shirley passed away in the mid-1990's, they left 10% of their modest estate to United. Half their bequest helped United lease a “temporary modular unit” (aka trailer) that was our first “Nurture Center” for preschoolers and infants. The other half went into United's small endowment to become our first “Living Endowment,” which generated enough interest and dividends yearly to match what the Greene's annual pledge had been. Given that United's yearly Stewardship campaign was always a challenge, maintaining their pledge helped the fledging congregation continue to care for children, youth, and the wider community. By including the United Church in *your* will or estate planning, you can also “leave a living legacy” for those who come after.



“Get to Know United!”

Sunday, January 29 – 11:15 am

To learn more about the United Church of Santa Fe and the United Church of Christ, come to the Newcomers' Gathering, Sunday, Jan. 29 during the 11:15 Adult Forum. Open to visitors and anyone else who is interested, it's a chance also to meet new friends. To RSVP, please contact Discipleship Development Chair Diane Darby (816-260-0127), Rev. Talitha Arnold (unitedchurch.talitha@gmail.com), or sign up in the Community Room.



**New Members Welcomed
Mardi Gras Sunday, Feb. 19**

We'll receive new members into the United Church community on Mardi Gras Sunday, Feb. 19. If you're interested in joining, please speak with Talitha Arnold (505-988-3295). Thanks! (If the date doesn't work for you, please let her know that, too. Thanks.)

We've Come This Far by Faith!

(and we're getting close)

Campaign for United 2023

There's still time to make a 2023 Pledge to the United Church of Santa Fe. As of Jan. 12, we've received 177 pledges, totaling: \$530,901 towards the \$550,000 goal—only \$19,099 to go! We hope you'll help! To make your pledge or for more info on stewardship, contact Stewardship Chair Bob Ansheles or Moderator Kim Zeilik. Thank you!



**INTERGENERATIONAL
BORDER IMMERSION TRIP**

(Sat., March 18 -Thurs., March 23, 2023)

United offers a chance for youth and adults to travel to the Southern Arizona/Northern Mexico border to learn the complexities of immigration and the impact of U.S. policies on people and creation. Details in process. Interested? Please contact Talitha Arnold.

Supporting Santa Fe's Interfaith, St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters

In last month's newsletter we communicated our approach to supporting the shelters in Santa Fe. We provide a full meal (entrée, veggie casserole, salad, and dessert) each month. Our approach opens up numerous volunteer opportunities. Many of you have already indicated your desire to support this effort. Below are specific opportunities for February. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Marilyn Gardner at 505-331-6600 (email: mjg1230@comcast.net) or Pat Roach at 505-988-7357 (email: proach102@comcast.net). Thank you.

- Feb 20 - 23** Shop for Chop and Grate
- Feb 24** Chop and Grate (9:30 at the church)
- Feb 20 - 25** Shop for salad and desert to be delivered to the shelters with the entrées and casseroles on Feb. 26
- Feb 26** Deliver meals and serve at Pete's Place
- Feb 27** Deliver meals to St. Elizabeth's and Casa Familia

Compassionate Christmas Gift Market

Thanks to the generosity of the United congregation and friends, far and near, the 2022 Compassionate Christmas gifts raised \$7,280 (\$3,000 over 2021) for:

- New Mexico Immigrant Law Center: \$1,180
- Santa Fe Shelters for the Homeless (Casa Familia, St. Elizabeth, Interfaith Shelter, Youth Shelter): each received \$525, totaling \$2,100
- Church World Service: \$770
- Solace Crisis Center: \$1,000
- Youth Service Trip: \$870
- Mitten Tree (for Growing Up New Mexico): \$835
- Audubon Center: \$525

Supporting Our Diné/Navajo Brothers and Sisters

Your financial support for Covid relief work (food and cleaning supplies) and masks continue to make a difference. Donations are sent to United's long-time partner, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, in Fort Defiance, AZ.

LOVE CREATION

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle!

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (NO standard plastic bags, please), fill them at home, and bring back to put in the green bin by the Children's Garden. More things in compost bins means less in landfills. Thanks!

Care for Creation and Offset Your Carbon Use

United's "Carbon Offset Program" helps plant trees and change policies to address climate change. It's simple to do: track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *Tree New Mexico* and *NM Interfaith Power and Light*. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/post/unitedscarbonoffsetprogram.

United's Outreach Giving Totals \$112,114 in 2022

United Church members and friends, in Santa Fe and across the country, gave more than \$100,000 this past year to "love God by loving our neighbor and God's creation."



\$12,700+ went to the United Church of Christ, regionally and nationally, as well as to special offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund) and local congregations in need.

The remainder went to both local and international organizations to provide support and supplies for Ukrainian refugees, Afghan resettlement, Navajo/Diné relief, regular meals for guests of Santa Fe shelters, mittens for kids in need, legal aid for immigrants, comfort backpacks for kids in crisis, books and social workers for public school kids, support for composting, carbon offset for travel, New Mexico fire relief, hurricane and other climate catastrophe relief, and financial assistance for members and friends facing medical or other emergency needs.

In addition, United's outreach efforts are supported by extensive staff and volunteer involvement. A detailed report of outreach giving will be provided in the Feb. 26 Congregational Budget meeting.

Thank you all, near and far, who made such generosity possible! And who will continue it into the future as we are called to "Love God, Love Neighbor, Love Creation."



<div>  FEBRUARY 2023 </div> <div>ASH WEDNESDAY</div> <div></div>						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>"Get to Know United!" Sunday, January 29 – 11:15 am To learn more about the United Church of Santa Fe and the United Church of Christ, come to the Newcomers' Gathering, Sunday, Jan. 29 during the 11:15 Adult Forum. Open to visitors and anyone else who is interested, it's a chance also to meet new friends. RSVP to Discipleship Development Chair Diane Darby (816-260-0127), Rev. Talitha Arnold, or sign up in the Community Room.</p>						
5 Fifth Sunday of Epiphany Way Over in Beulah Lan'! 8:30 am Contemplative Communion Service 9:00 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am FebFest Worship with Dr. André Thomas 11:15 am Youth Initiates 3:00 pm <i>FebFest Concert</i> (Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis) (Free-will offering to benefit Habitat for Humanity)	6	7	8	9 8:00 am <i>Resiliency & Hope</i> Bible Study (Zoom)	10	11 Beethoven's 9 th Symphony 6:00 pm NM Philharmonic with United's Choir (Popejoy Hall, UNM)
12 Sixth Sunday of Epiphany 8:30 am Contemplative Communion Service 9:00 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship Service, Children's Ministry, Young Adventurers 11:15 am Youth Initiates Adult Forum: <i>Barriers at the Border</i>	13	14 March Newsletter Deadline Valentine's Day	15 10:00 am Women's Study Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	16 5:15 pm Church Council Meeting	17	18
Rev. Talitha Arnold—Hoskins Fellow at Yale Divinity School						
19 Seventh Sunday of Epiphany Mardi Gras Sunday New Members Welcomed 8:30 am Contemplative Communion Service 9:00 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship Service for All Ages with Andy Kingston Jazz Trio 11:15 am Youth Initiates Mardi Gras Brunch and <i>United by the Numbers</i>	20 Office closed	21	22 Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	23 8:00 am <i>Resiliency & Hope</i> Bible Study (Zoom) 9:00 am Newsletter Folding	24 9:30 am "Chop & Grate" Family Supper Bags 6:30-8:30 pm Youth Night Pizza and Painting!	25 Lenten Retreat 8:30 am—12:30 pm
26 First Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Contemplative Communion Service 9:00 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship Service, Children's Ministry, Young Adventurers 11:15 am Youth Initiates Congregational Mid-Winter Budget Meeting Monthly Interfaith Shelter Dinner	27 St. E's & Casa Familia Shelter Dinners	28	<p>ECO TIPS: Don't Idle Did you know it only takes 30 seconds to warm up your engine when driving in the winter? In modern fuel injected engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on cold winter days before driving away. This is MUCH BETTER for the environment than letting your car sit idling for long periods of time.</p>			

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Mailing Date — January 19, 2023

Non-Profit Organization
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Santa Fe NM 87501

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 that emphasizes 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!

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED

United Church is also United (in-person and online) Church! We continue to offer both the **10:00 am Sunday service in-person** and also the **livestream of the service online** (access it on United’s website: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://www.unitedchurchofsantafe.org)). We also offer an **8:30 am Contemplative Communion service**. For indoor events, proof of vaccination (except if unable to be vaccinated due to age or medical condition) and N95 masks required. You can keep your vaccination confirmation on file at the church. For more information email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Thank you!