

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
AND
THE SUNDAY OF THE 46TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
August 30, 2026
10:00 A.M.

For Reflection:

*Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck
blackberries.*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

WE GATHER

(May the first note of the Prelude be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship.)

Prelude

*Komm, Heiliger Geist, BWV 226
Here I Am, Lord*

J.S. Bach
Daniel Schutte/arr. Gene Robertson

*Introit

Circle of Life (2x)
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Marty Haugen

*One great circle of life, living circle of love, plants and trees, seas and rivers, and the blessed sky above,
Creatures great, creatures small, one the web that weaves us all, in the circle of life.*

Words and Music - ©2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by Permission. OneLicense.net #A-711427

Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

*Sharing God's Blessing, Regathering, and Breathing Again

Circle of Life

Marty Haugen

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Beach Spring

Call to Worship based on Genesis 1 and 2 (congregation in bold)

In the beginning, God made the world.

**Made it and mothered it, shaped it and fathered it,
filled it with seeds and signs of fertility,
filled it with love and its folk with ability.**

All that is green, blue, deep and growing,

God's is the hand that created you.

All that is tender, firm, fragrant, and curious,

God's is the hand that created you.

All that crawls, flies, swims, walks, or is motionless,

God's is the hand that created you.

All that speaks, signs, cries, laughs, or keeps silent,

God's is the hand that created you.

All that suffers, lacks, limps, or longs for an end,

God's is the hand that created you.

The world belongs to the Lord.

The earth and all its people are God's.

Let us sing praise to the God of all creation!

*Hymn

12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts/Ellacombe

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation from the Ute Sacred Tradition (**congregation in bold**)

Earth teach us stillness,
as the grasses are stilled with light.
Earth teach us suffering,
as old stones suffer with memory.
Earth teach us humility,
as blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth teach us caring,
as the mother secures her young.
Earth teach us courage,
as the tree which stands all alone.
Earth teach us limitation,
as the ant which crawls on the ground.

Earth teach us freedom,
as the eagle which soars in the sky.
Earth teach us resignation,
as the leaves which die in the fall.
Earth teach us regeneration,
as the seed which rises in the spring.
Earth teach us to forget ourselves,
as melted snow forgets its life.
Earth teach us to remember kindness,
as dry fields weep with rain.
Amen.

A Time of Silent Prayer

The Assurance of God's Grace and Power

*Our Song of Praise

From All That Dwell below the Skies

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung! Let God the Spirit free each tongue!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

(During the song, elementary children are invited to come forward for a blessing. They then leave for Kids United with Family Minister Dana Bender. Nurture Center Coordinator Tracy Church offers songs, stories, and activities for Pre-K's and Kinders. Children's Assistant Maria Navarette cares for our littlest ones (infants & toddlers)).

*Blessing of the Children

WE ENGAGE

A Story from the Wilderness

Exodus 3:1-15 (cond.)

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your forebears, the God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, the God of Isaac and Rebekah, and the God of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ... So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your forebears has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is God's name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.' ...

This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation."

Hymn 510

Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You

Rae Whitney/Quem Pastores

Sermon

Shoeless in the Desert

Silent Reflection

Musical Reflection

What Wondrous Love is This

American Folk Hymn

A Time of Silent Reflection

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Prayer of Our Savior

(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)

Presenting Our Gifts

Holy Forever

Chris Tomlin/arr. Phillip Keveren

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn

Lord, You Give the Great Commission (1-3)

Jeffery Rowthorn/Hyfrydol

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Lord, You Give the Great Commission (v. 4)

Jeffery Rowthorn/Hyfrydol

Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory!

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We're glad you've joined in worship this morning, and we hope you found both the service and community engaging and enriching. We invite you also to join in the weeks ahead as together we "love God, Neighbor, and Creation." For more information about United, please visit our website unitedchurchofsantafe.org. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Also sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Dr. Michelle Schumann, Director of Music/Pianist; Dana Bender, Family Minister; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez. Liturgists to be announced. You were greeted by Louise Cavatta, Dana Hollifield, Tom Stewart, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

Kids United – Blessing and Letting Go

We continue a unit called "Blessing and Letting Go." As one of the kids said to Dana Bender recently, "Why do I need to be blessed every Sunday?" This is an excellent question! What does it mean to be a blessing? Why do we say, "Blessings on this blessed day?" This is the jumping-off point for our discussions, games, and crafts in the coming weeks. Nurture Center care and ministry with infants through Kinders offered by Tracy Church and Maria Navarette.

Today – 11:15 – 46th Annual Meeting of the United Church of Santa Fe

We'll give thanks for our life and ministry, recognize outgoing Council members, elect the new Council, and look to the future. (The meeting is also be available by live stream.) Annual Reports available in Community Room. (Childcare offered.)

THIS WEEK

Monday – 3:00 pm – Congregational Care Team

Wednesday Women's Study Group Starts Sept. 2 (10:00 am) – "The Lion Women of Tehran"

Through next May, we read great books and discuss them on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (10:00 to 11:30 am). We hope you'll join in! We start Sept. 2 with *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali. Info: Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, mommorton@gmail.com); Jenn Wynn (817-219-0707, home@wynnes.us).

Forgiveness, Hope and Resilience – Zoom Bible Study Group

Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:00 am (MDT)

We're exploring what Jesus said about forgiveness. All welcome. To register, email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

COMING UP

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals Begin Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7:00 pm

The Sanctuary Choir resumes its regular rehearsal schedule Wednesday, Sept. 9 and sings in the 10:00 service Sunday, Sept. 13 (9:00 rehearsal). All welcome! Please contact Music Director Michelle Schumann (unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com).

Rev. Jeff Hopson, Guest Preacher – Sundays, Sept. 6 and 13

Rev. Jeff Hopson is our guest preacher in both services on Labor Day Sunday (Sept. 6) and Fiesta Sunday (Sept. 13). Jeff grew up in a family of four kids on a registered Hereford ranch in northeastern New Mexico. A graduate of Oklahoma State and Pittsburgh Theological School, he's served Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania, California, and Nebraska. After retiring two years ago, he moved back to his home state (i.e., here) and has been serving an interim pastor for the Presbyterian Church in Las Vegas. It's a pleasure and blessing to welcome him as guest preacher over the next two Sundays.

Rev. Talitha Arnold is away from this Thursday, Sept. 3 through Tuesday, Sept. 15. Should a pastoral care need arise, please call Church Administrator Lin Raymond (505-988-3295; Monday - Friday, 9:00 to 5:00). At other times, please call Rev. Ben Larzelere, clergy-on-call (505-699-1000) or June Yoder, Congregational Care Team member on call (505-503-0555).

New to United? – Come to Newcomer Orientation, Sunday, Sept. 20 – 11:15

If you're new (or newish) to United and would like to know more about this local congregation and the United Church of Christ as a whole, plan to come to a Newcomer Orientation gathering about the 10:00 service on Sunday, Sept. 20. It's (Coming to a Newcomer gathering isn't a commitment to join—but a chance to meet new people, ask questions, and learn what the United Church of Santa Fe is about.) Please sign up in the Community Room or contact Lin Raymond, Office Administrator (505-988-3295; unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

New Members received on Sunday, Sept. 27

For persons who are interested in becoming a member of United, we'll receive new members in both services on the last Sunday of September. If you would like to join at that time or would like more information, please speak with Discipleship Chair Diane Darby or Talitha Arnold, Pastor. Thank you!

LOVE GOD BY LOVING NEIGHBOR

\$1 Feeds 4 People – Summer Fund Drive for Santa Fe Food Depot

The Santa Fe Food Depot stretches every \$1 donated to create 4 meals of healthy food for people throughout Northern New Mexico. To donate, make checks to "United Church," (memo "Food Depot") or go online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you! Our Children's Garden also supplies the Food Depot with fresh vegetables for food bags. To help with weekly weeding and/or harvesting, please contact Dana Bender.

Donations for Immigrant Families at Consuelo's Place and Casa Familia

Through August, the Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration (of which United is a founding member) invites donations for Consuelo's Place (an emergency shelter) and Casa Familia (for women and children). Cleaning supplies needed for both shelters include laundry detergent, toilet paper, trash bags. Casa Familia also needs women's undergarments, shampoo, personal hygiene items, diapers. ¡Con mil gracias!

Support Our Immigrants – Friday, Sept. 11 (6:00-9:30 pm) at Tumbleroot

Support our immigrant siblings and have a great time at Tumbleroot Brewery (2791 Agua Fria) listening to the Latin band *Nosotros*. This fund raiser is sponsored by the Santa Fe Faith Coalition, of which United is a member, and Indivisible of Santa Fe. Tickets: \$10 (but please give generously). Proceeds provide emergency support for immigrant families.

LOVE GOD BY LOVING CREATION

United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change

Track car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and the *Santa Fe Watershed Association* for their environmental advocacy and hands-on care for God's good earth and generations yet to come. (\$8/100 miles driven; \$8/3 hours in the air). Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle! (And it helps mitigate climate change.)

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Two ways to help: 1.) Please use the compost containers in the Community Room and education rooms for your coffee cups, napkins, or plates from the Fellowship Time or church meals. They're all compostable. 2.) Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and then put in green bin in back of the church.

How Does United Get Its Work Done?

Congregational Conversation – Sunday, Sept. 27 – 11:15

As this Annual Report documents, United Church offers a wide range of ministries, both within the congregation and for the community and world around us. But just how are these efforts coordinated and completed? Whether you're new to United or have been here since the beginning, you're invited to a special "Congregational Conversation" after the 10:00 service on September 27. Plan to come and "lift the hood" on some of United ministries:

- What are the "Ministry Teams" and other essential groups that make up United's ministry efforts?
- How are funds from United members directed to various outreach recipients?
- Where does United need volunteers (and perhaps additional staffing) to accomplish its missions?
- What are demographic challenges of Santa Fe and across the country that impact our local congregation?