

Monthly publication
 United Church of Santa Fe
 Santa Fe, New Mexico
 June 2023

PRAYERS FOR THIS TIME

For God’s Presence in All Creation

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.

A Prayer for Father’s Day

For all who have carried us in their arms and in their hearts,
 For all who have wiped away our tears and listened us back to life,
 For all whose Dad jokes made us groan and whose faith in us gave us hope,
 We give you thanks, O God—Creator, Father, Mother of us all.

A Tewa Prayer

*O our Mother Earth, O our Father Sky,
 Your children are we: with tired backs
 we bring you gifts that you love.*

*Then, weave for us a garment of brightness.
 May the warp be the white light of morning,
 May the weft be the red light of evening.
 May the fringes be the falling rain.
 May the border be the standing rainbow.
 Weave for us a garment of brightness,
 that we may walk fittingly where birds sing,
 where grass is green.*

*O our Mother Earth, O our Father Sky,
 weave for us!*

**A Summer Prayer for Children
 (and their parents)**

Give time for rest, O God, to your child.
 Give time for wonder. Give time for life. Amen.

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**UNITED CHURCH
OF SANTA FE**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pianist

Elijah Marquez
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Media Coordinator*

Lin Raymond
Office Administrator

Maria Navarette
Children's Assistant

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

*Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours ...
for you need endurance.*

The Letter to the Hebrews, 10:35-36

Dear Friends,

In 1960, Madeleine L'Engel was a 42-year-old schoolteacher and aspiring writer. Married with two children (and a member of the UCC at the time), L'Engel hadn't published a major work since her early twenties. But she'd become fascinated by Einstein's theory of relativity and quantum physics. That year she incorporated those ideas into a science fiction fantasy for young adults.

Over the next two years, L'Engel submitted the book to twenty-six publishers. Each one turned it down. Some because L'Engel wasn't known as a science fiction writer. Others because the main character was a mathematically-savvy young girl. That was too unbelievable, even for science fiction!

Undaunted, L'Engel tried a twenty-seventh time and sent the manuscript to Farrar, Strauss and Girard. They accepted it and *A Wrinkle in Time* was published in 1962. Within the year, it had sold a million copies and won the Newberry Award.

"Do not abandon that confidence of yours," encouraged the preacher who wrote the Letter to the Hebrews. Instead "recall those earlier days when ... you endured a hard struggle with sufferings." Ironically at the time the Letter to the Hebrews was written, Christians weren't particularly suffering or facing death or other threats. Instead, they were just tired of being Christian, tired of believing that new life was possible for themselves and this world, tired of being a community.

As one scholar observes, for the people to whom the Letter to the Hebrews was addressed, "the danger was due not to any persecution from outsiders but to a weariness with the demands of Christian life and a growing indifference to their calling."

The endurance they needed wasn't to face the Roman Legion or lions in the Colosseum. It was the same endurance Madeleine L'Engel needed—to keep trying, keep believing in herself and in the gift God had given her, keep trusting God. It's the same endurance we who are this generation of the United Church of Santa Fe also need.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews reminded the early Christians that they were "not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith."

Madeleine L'Engel had that faith. Even after twenty-six rejections, she didn't abandon the confidence God had given her. Because of that endurance, this old world has been a far more enchanting place.

What might be possible in this world if we who are the United Church of Santa Fe also nurtured that same faith and same endurance?

It might be good to think about that—and pray about it—this summer. In the meantime, enjoy all that season might bring!

Blessings,



Worship in June

Living in Ordinary Time Summer Worship

8:30 Outdoor Service (starting May 28)
10:00 Indoor Service (in person and livestreamed)

“Ordinary Time.” That’s how some Christian traditions call the long stretch of time between Pentecost Sunday (May 21) and the First Sunday of Advent. “Ordinary Time” comes from the Latin *ordinalis*, meaning “numbered” or “ordered,” and *tempus ordinarium*, “measured time.” Some commentators say it just means numbering the Sunday between Pentecost and Advent.

But the fact is – these months are ordinary. No special sacred celebrations from June to November in the Christian calendar. No high holy days until All Saints Day. No special colors like Advent’s purple to get us ready for Christmas, no directives like Lent’s fasting to prepare for the Easter feast. Just “ordinary time.”

And yet ... if we’re open to this mystery and power called God, no time is just “ordinary time.” If we try to follow in the ways of Jesus, we’ll have all kinds of challenges and adventures. If we let the Spirit in, we may have some extra-ordinary experiences.

This summer, let’s explore how to live in ordinary time—and invite a friend to join you!



It Begins with a Blessing – June 4

This ordinary world had an extraordinary beginning—at least according to the first chapter of Genesis. God’s spirit moved over the waters of the deep, calling forth light, creating dry land, setting the stars in their places, calling up the mountains, and creating all creatures great and small. Creating us humans, too. Then, when it was all said and done, God blessed this ordinary world and us ordinary creatures—and called it all good, even us. How to live in ordinary time? A blessing is a good place to begin.

It’s Work – June 11

“Let us know,” pleads the prophet Hosea with his people. “Let us press on to know the Lord.” (Hosea 6:3) Unlike many other prophets, Hosea didn’t live in an extraordinary time of war or exile. His people hadn’t been overrun by a foreign army or dragged off into slavery. They just weren’t paying attention—not to God, not to the needs of God’s people. They’d simply wandered off to worship other gods, some of their own making. It’s Hosea’s job to call them back to the God of life. He pleads, he cajoles, he lets his heart be broken. Living faithfully, even in ordinary time, is hard work. Hosea knows that. He tries to get his people to know that, too.

It Takes Endurance—and Hope – June 18, Father’s Day

“For we know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint.” (Paul’s Letter to the Romans, 5:3-4). The apostle Paul had had his share of suffering by the time he wrote those words from a prison cell. He’d been beaten, put in stocks, hauled before judges, shipwrecked, and set upon by mobs. But he had endured. And he still had hope. That’s “Living in Ordinary Time 101.”

It Takes the Truth – June 25

The prophet Jeremiah never told people what they wanted to hear. He told them the truth instead. If that meant warning them of violence and destruction, so be it. If it meant being honest about how hard the relationship with God could be, so be it. If it meant confessing that he was sometimes afraid or at the end of his rope, he didn’t hold back. (Jeremiah 20:7-13) Jeremiah wasn’t the easiest person to be around, but he was definitely the most honest. For him, honesty was the only way to live in ordinary time or any time.

It Takes Humility – July 2

Abraham thought he knew the will of God. That’s why he sharpened his knife, loaded his donkey with wood, kissed his wife, and took his son up Mount Moriah. (Genesis 22:1-14) But—thank God—before he’d done the deed, a voice from outside him or perhaps within him told him to stop. Sacrificing his son was not what God wanted. It didn’t matter that traditions all around him did that. It wasn’t what God wanted. Thank God, Abraham was willing to learn something new about God. Thank God, he realized he didn’t have all the answers. Thank God, he listened. Sometimes it takes humility to live in ordinary time. A good reminder for the Sunday before a national holiday.



It's been a busy spring, but summer follows right behind. So now we're hard at work scheduling special music in June, July, and August.

Plans are as yet pretty fluid but one thing I'm delighted to report is, after a hiatus of three years, we'll again welcome Santa Fe Opera Apprentices to our Sunday morning worship! They weren't allowed off campus last year, lest they bring Covid-19 back to the ensemble, but this summer they again have permission to participate in things off the opera grounds. One change is we won't have them every week but, rather, once a month. By not having opera arias every Sunday we'll enjoy a more varied palette of musical offerings.

I'm also planning our usual three Drop-in choirs throughout the summer. The first date is June 18, Father's Day. That day we'll sing a piece for men's chorus, so the women of the choir can sit back and enjoy our wonderful men's section. And any men of the congregation who don't normally sing with us—or any male visitors that morning—are welcome to come rehearse at 9:00 am, learn the anthem, and join in the singing at 10:00.

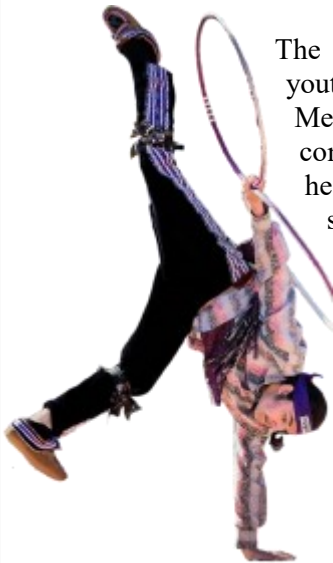
July and August dates are tentative right now, so I won't announce them yet. But I've also reached out to the many musical members of the congregation to ask for their involvement in summer music. We have such a musical community, it's an embarrassment of riches!

See you in church,

Bradley Ellingboe
Director of Music



"Lightning Boy Hoop Dancers" at United Friday, June 23 (7:00 pm) – For All Ages!



The event features tribal youth from northern New Mexico. The Hoop Dance continues to be known as a healing art form and is said to have its origins in the Pueblos of Northern New Mexico. Bring a friend and enjoy this unique New Mexico offering! You can also pack a picnic supper and come early. It will help if you sign up, too.

Praying in the Dirt, Feeding Santa Fe Families

This summer United's children tend the Children's Garden during Sunday worship and learn about God and God's earth, water, air, and creatures. All the garden produce goes to the Food Depot and all kids are welcome! (All adults welcome, too, to volunteer.) Sign up in the Community room or let Karen Wilbanks, Caleb Omolo, or Talitha Arnold you'd like to help.



Youth Trip to Navajoland (Wed., May 31 to Sat., June 3)

Six United youth, along with three adult advisors, will explore the homeland of our Navajo/Diné neighbors just one state over. We'll learn about the history, culture, and spiritual understandings of one of largest indigenous communities in our country. Please keep the youth (Eloise and William Benham, Jack and Sasha Smucker, Marianna Gonzales, Caleb Omolo) and the adults (Talitha Arnold, Karen and Frank Wilbanks) in your prayers!

Blessings for the Journey after High School

Throughout the summer, we'll take time in Sunday services to bless and wish Godspeed for our recent high school graduates as they leave for college or other adventures. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.



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)

Congregational Care for June

On Call: Dusty Pruitt (302) 393-3265
Food: John Shaffer (814) 336-9353





CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks for:

- Everyone who made **United We Run/Walk/Cheer/Eat/Give** such a great time and great success. Special kudos to Avril Ekstrand, Organizer Par Excellent, and Diana Smith and Nancy Merchat for the great brunch, and everyone else who set up tables, helped with clean-up, cheered, ran, walked, gave, outlined the course, staffed the water stations, and shared the good food and fellowship of the day!
- **United's children (and their leaders)** for blessing us with "Jesus Loves Me" in 5 different languages on Mother's Day.
- **The Endowment Initiative Steering Committee**, led by Frank Wilbanks, for their ongoing work to help lay a solid financial base for United's future—and for all who are giving outright gifts and/or planning for United in their wills, trusts, etc.

Prayers of Congratulations and New Life for:

- All our graduates: **Owen Aalberts**, Santa Fe High; **Jace Gordon**, Santa Fe Waldorf School; **Lily Moulton**, Santa Fe Girls School. And a special shout-out to **Donovan Natonabah**, graduating from Capital High, who received the Carson Honor Student award from Communities in Schools, named after Georgia and Bill Carson, former members of United who, along with Vickie Sewing, started the Salazar School/United Church partnership in the mid-1990's that later morphed into Communities in Schools!
- **Anne Hillerman and David Tedlock**, celebrating their wedding on Saturday, May 27—and for Anne, also celebrating the book launch of *The Way of the Bear*, in the Manuelito/Chee/Leaphorn mystery series.
- **Larry Rasmussen**, whose book *The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren* is the Nautilus Gold Prize winner as the best 2022 book on Ecology and Environment.

Prayers for safe travels and blessings for:

- **Maria Navarette and her family (Juan, Destiny, Miguel)** as they travel to El Salvador for a month. It's the first time she's been to her homeland since leaving as a teenager and the first time ever for their children.

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- The **Natonabah/McCabe families**, following the death of their beloved brother, son, nephew, and uncle **Michael**. A service to give thanks for his life and to commit his soul to God's eternal love and light is Sun., May 28, at Scottish Rite Temple; United Choral Scholar **Quiara Cortez** following the death of her 10-year-old sister; **Diane Johnson**, following the death of her brother-in-law.
- **Tammie Ortega and John Fowler (and Tammie's mother)** as they deal with fires close to their home in Guadalupita.
- **Judy Rainger**, dealing with heart issues; **Roger and Linda Knapp**, as he recovers from a broken ankle; **Jim Maloney**, recovering from brain surgery, pneumonia, and Covid; Mary Noonan, on Hospice; **Rhae Burden**, also on Hospice; **Al and Merry Converse**, as he is in rehab at SF Cares and Merry deals with macular degeneration; **Kathy Flynn and Betty Bordner**, both recently hospitalized.
- Persons with memory loss and their loved ones, including **Royce and Carolyn Stewart**, and others.
- Persons in long-term care centers, including **Linda Hummingbird**, (North Carolina); **Yvonne Fairchild**, at El Castillo; **Helen Wagner**, at Kingston; and others.
- **Cliff Beck, Sandy Vermillion, Monsignor Jerome Martinez, Karl Ray**, and others living with neurological issues; **Brooke Roberts, Jan McGough, Michael Grimm, Ed Barker**, and others living with chronic pain; **Theresa Kline, Robyn and Bob Covelli**, and others with ongoing medical challenges.
- **Individuals and families dealing with mental health and/or addiction issues.** (If you or someone you love is struggling emotionally, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988) provides 24/7, free, confidential support and crisis resources for people in distress.)
- **Individuals, couples and families dealing with Covid and long-Covid.**
- Persons living with cancer and their loved ones (**Andy Ritch, Louise Abel, Tim Gauthier, Jody and Peter Spalding's daughter, Tom Himrod's sister**, and others).
- Persons who are imprisoned and those who love them.
- United members and friends with extended families in other countries **Blanca Surgeon and Zulema Zambrano** (Honduras), **Jessie Lo** (Taiwan), **Jan and Kitty Jansen** (Netherlands), **Joohee Rand** (Korea), **Caleb Omolo** (Kenya), **John Walker** (Scotland), **Avril Ekstrand** (Ireland), **Victoria and Joe Ubben** (Germany), **Kim Zeilik** (Spain), and others.
- The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo devastated by floods, landslides, and loss of loved ones.
- Families, schools, congregations, and communities whose lives have been shattered by gun violence, and prayers for our legislators and others to have the courage to enact sane and safe gun restrictions.
- Continued prayers for the people of Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen, Somalia, Haiti, Central America, and other countries impacted by war; immigrants and families fleeing violence and poverty to seek refuge in our country even as Title 42 comes to an end; **policymakers** who determine their fate.
- Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation.

LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, CREATION

Outreach Opportunities – Thank you!

Go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe NM 87505.

LOVE NEIGHBOR

Summer Drive for the Food Depot

The Food Depot supplies schools, shelters, and agencies throughout Northern New Mexico with healthy food year-round. To help, bring any (or all) of these items to the church: jumbo-size containers of canned vegetables/fruit, pasta, rice for group meals; family-size packages, especially high-protein foods (dried beans, canned meats, chili con carne, soups); baby foods (powdered formula, cereal, jars of baby food); diapers. Monetary donations also welcome. Make checks to United Church (memo: Food Depot) or go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you!



Children's Garden Vegetables for Food Depot, too!

All the produce from the Children's Garden this summer goes to the Food Depot to provide fresh vegetables in the food bags. If you'd like to help with weekly weeding or harvesting, please contact Donna Clark or sign up at church. Also, as the summer progresses, if you have extra squash, etc. from your own garden, bring it to the church and we'll get it to the Food Depot!

United's Shelter Supper Ministries Offer Food and Care

United provides full meals (entrée, veggie casserole, salad, dessert) each month to Santa Fe Shelters. There are numerous volunteer opportunities. Below are specific ones for May. Interested? Please contact Pat Roach (proach102@comcast.net). You can also support this ministry financially with check or online donations (memo: shelter meals). Thank you!

- Fri., June 23 – Chop & Grate at United (9:30 am)
- Sun., June 25 – Deliver to Casa Familia and St. Elizabeth's (no Interfaith Shelter this month)
- Volunteers are needed to make meat loaf.

Immigration Good News...

The Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Classification Act is now law, helping protect immigrant youth in New Mexico. SIJ Status allows immigrant children/youth (up to age 21) within the state who cannot reunify with one or both parents due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment to pursue lawful permanent residency. This law now aligns New Mexico state law with the SIJS federal statute.



Many Thanks for

“United We Run/Walk/Share/Love!”

Thanks to all who volunteered, organized, ran, walked, donated, cheered—United raised \$5,105 to be divided amongst BookKids, the Santa Fe Watershed Association, and Immigration/Refugee Relief. Way to go, Team United!

Thank you!

from the Good Shepherd Church, Sahuarita, AZ

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for your kind gift made to us on March 13, 2023. Our humanitarian aid on the border continues because of friends like you.

Sincerely,

The Green Valley—Sahuarita Samaritans

LOVE 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 *Tree New Mexico*. Info at: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/post/unitedscarbonoffsetprogram.

Compost Collection for Creation!

Deposit compostable products in the green bin. Also, pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (NO standard plastic bags, please). Questions? Call Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700) or go to reunityresources.com. Thanks.

Summer Sunday Forums—11:15 am

Planning a Memorial Service

May 28

A gift you can give your loved ones is to let them know what scriptures, hymns, etc. you would like in your memorial service. Join Pastor Talitha Arnold for conversation and a chance to begin pre-planning.

Coffee and Conversation (Iced Tea, too)

June 4

Plan to stick around either the 8:30 or the 10:00 services to connect with new friends, have a cup of coffee or iced tea, and get to know one another.

Founded in Love, Building in Faith Endowment Speed Dating

June 11

Want to leave a legacy for your children or other people's children? Hope that United Church continues to thrive in the future? Have questions about wills and codicils, planned giving or trusts? Want to discuss why we need an Endowment? Then come to United's "Endowment Speed Dating!" Three different presentations on everything you wanted to know about estates, bequests, etc.—and why all of that is important for you and for your church!

New Mexico Immigrant Law Center

June 25

We welcome a representative from NMILC for an update on what's currently happening for immigrants and asylum-seekers at the U.S./Mexico border—and how United can help.

Groups and Gatherings



Pretty Good Guys Read Bad Boys of the Bible Wednesdays, June 14 & 28 (10:30 am)

Join with other United men to engage brief reflections on Biblical men and what we learn from their stories. Books (\$15) in Community Room. In June, our focus is Cain and Abraham. (Contact church office, unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or Ken Bordner, 585-734-4548, ken.bordner2@gmail.com)

Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MDT) on Zoom

Exercise your mind and soul Thursday mornings by exploring scripture stories for the upcoming Sundays. All welcome! Sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Summer Prayer Groups

Feeling overwhelmed by all the bad news of the world? Want to connect with others by connecting through regular prayer? This summer United is forming small groups (6-7 people) who will pray daily for one another, our church, and the world, and also connect once a week (in-person or via Zoom). Interested? Let Talitha Arnold know.

FOUNDED IN LOVE, BUILDING IN FAITH! **United's Endowment Initiative**

Why include the United Church of Santa Fe in your will or other planned giving? Here's why Gail and Bob Ansheles have done so:

We chose to include the United Church of Santa Fe in our will for several reasons. It is the most appropriate way to honor those good people who started our United Church with their financial commitment from the early days. We feel it is our turn now to sow the seeds for future growth. This planned gift allows us to provide a more substantial gift than we could offer United in our lifetime. With our promise, we have peace of mind that we will help future United members and friends to Love God, Love Neighbor, and Love Creation.

Additionally, as parents, this gift allows us to present to our children one final example of the importance of philanthropy and the responsibility to help others.

Gail and Bob Ansheles

If you've put United in your will, please let us know. If you haven't yet, consider doing so. For more info, please contact Endowment Initiative Chair Frank Wilbanks (frank.wilbanks@gmail.com, 469-438-6112) or Pastor Talitha Arnold (unitedchurch.talitha@gmail.com, 505-988-3295). Thank you!

**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 that emphasizes freedom of thought and belief as well as a commitment to **“Love God, Neighbor, and Creation.”** 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, N95 masks are required. For more information about United’s programs, please go to our website, call 505-988-3295, or send an email to unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Thank you!