

**A Service of Word  
for  
Mardi Gras Sunday  
February 15, 2026  
10:00 A.M.**

The United Church of Santa Fe  
A United Church of Christ

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**For Reflection:**

*Brothers and sisters, let us sing "Alleluia" now,  
not in the enjoyment of heavenly rest,  
but to sweeten our toil.*

*Sing as travelers along the road,  
but keep on walking.*

*Sing, but keep on walking. . . . Press on from good to better. . . .  
So sing "Alleluia" and keep on walking.*

St. Augustine

**Welcome to the United Church of Santa Fe!**

**WE GATHER**

Music for Gathering

*My Lord, What a Morning*

Spiritual

\*Introit

*When the Saints Go Marchin' In* (2x)

Traditional

(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)

*Oh, when the saints go marchin' in, Oh, when the saints go marchin' in,  
Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marchin' in!*

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing and Regathering

*Shake Another Hand*

Jim Strathdee

(Chorus)

*A-la-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia! A-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!  
A-la-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia! A-la-la-la-la-la—le-lu-ia!*

*Shake another hand, shake the hand next to you,  
shake another hand and sing this song,  
Shake another hand, shake the hand next to you,  
shake another hand and sing, sing this... (Chorus)*

*Pat another back, pat the back next to you,  
pat another back and sing this song,  
Pat another back, pat the back next to you,  
pat another back and sing, sing this... (Chorus)*

*Bump another rump, bump a rump next to you,  
bump another rump, and sing this song,  
Bump another rump, bump a rump next to you,  
bump another rump, and sing, sing this... (Chorus)*

## Breathing in God's Gifts Again

### Musical Call to Worship

### *Higher Ground*

Johnson Oatman, Jr.

### The Call to Worship

People of God, look around and see. Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

#### **Gente de Dios, miren y vean.**

See the faces of those we know and love—neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers—a community of kindred hearts.

#### **Gente de Dios, miren y vean.**

See the faces of those we hardly know—strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.

#### **Gente de Dios, miren y vean.**

See all the images of God assembled here. In me, in you, in each of us, God's spirit shines for all to see.

#### **Gente de Dios, miren y vean.**

Come and see God in all the people of God. Let us sing our faith together.

\*Hymn

### *Lead Me, Guide Me*

Doris Akers

*Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,*  
*For \_\_\_\_ if you lead me, I can - not stray.*  
*Lord, \_\_\_\_ let me walk each day with Thee.*

**Fine**

*Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me. \_\_\_\_\_*

**1.** I am weak \_\_\_\_ and I need thy strength and power to \_\_\_\_  
**2.** Help me tread \_\_\_\_ in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my  
**3.** I am lost \_\_\_\_ if you take your hand from me, I am

**1.** help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me  
**2.** aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am  
**3.** blind with - out thy light to see; Lord, just

**1.** through the dark - ness thy face to see,  
**2.** put - ting all \_\_\_\_ my trust in thee.  
**3.** al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

**D.C.**

**1.** Lead me, Oh Lord, \_\_\_\_ lead me. \_\_\_\_\_  
**2.** Lead me, Oh Lord, \_\_\_\_ lead me. \_\_\_\_\_  
**3.** Lead me, Oh Lord, \_\_\_\_ lead me. \_\_\_\_\_

## WE PREPARE

### A Prayer of Invocation

Powerful and Ever-present One, you lead us and guide us throughout our journeys of life and faith.

**You walk with us every step of the way.**

**You steady us when we stumble and pick us up when we fall.**

**You turn our fear to courage and our confusion to confidence.**

Open us now to your powerful Spirit in this time of worship.

**Speak to us through your Word.**

**Restore our souls with your Song.**

Then send back into your world to walk with one another and all your people.

### Time of Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

*Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*

Negro Spiritual/arr. William Dawson

\*In Our Song of Praise 2

***Glory, Glory Hallelujah* (1-3)**

Negro Spiritual

## WE ENGAGE GOD'S WORD

*Coming up the Rough Side of the Mountain*

Jesus Goes up the Rough Side of the Mountain (**cong. bold**)

Luke 9:28-35

One day Jesus climbed a high mountain to pray, taking Peter, John, and James along. While he was in prayer, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became blinding white. At once two men were there talking with him. They turned out to be Moses and Elijah! What a glorious appearance they made! . . .

Meanwhile, Peter and the others were slumped over in sleep. When they came to, rubbing their eyes, they saw Jesus in his glory and the two other men. When Moses and Elijah had left, Peter blurted out, "Jesus, this is a great moment! Let's make three tents! One for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was babbling on like this, a brilliant cloud enveloped them. Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Beloved, the Chosen! Listen to him." When the sound of the voice died away, they saw Jesus there alone. They were speechless. After they'd hiked down the mountain, the three disciples said nothing to anyone about what they had seen.

The next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met them. And a man from the crowd cried, "**Teacher, I beg you—heal my son!**"

Song 2

***Glory, Glory Hallelujah* (5-6)**

Negro Spiritual

*Coming Up the Rough Side of the Mountain*

- It helps when we walk with others.
- It helps if we leave some stuff behind.
- It helps to have the right stuff in our backpacks.
- We never know what we'll see or where the trail will lead.
- We have to come back down into the world.
- Sometimes that world cries and we need to listen.
- "Hallelujahs" help.
- Whether on the mountaintop or in the deep valleys, there is One who walks with us.

## Our Musical Response

### *Coming up the Rough Side of the Mountain*

F.C. Barnes

*Oh Lord, I'm strivin',  
Tryin' to make it through this barren land,  
But as I go from day to day,  
I can hear my Savior say  
"Trust me child, come on, I'll hold your hand."*

*I'm comin' up, on the rough side of the mountain.  
I must hold to God, His powerful hand.  
I'm comin' up, on the rough side of the mountain.  
I'm doin' my best to make it in.*

*I'm comin' up Lord, I'm comin' up Lord.  
Although my burdens sometimes they press me down,  
But if I can only keep this faith  
I'll have strength just to run this race.  
I'm lookin', I'm lookin', for my starry crown.*

*I'm comin' up, on the rough side of the mountain.  
I must hold to God, His powerful hand.  
I'm comin' up, on the rough side of the mountain.  
I'm doin' my best to make it in.*

*This old race, will soon be over.  
There'll be no more race for me to run,  
And I will stand before God's throne,  
All my heartaches will be gone,  
I'll hear my Savior say, "welcome home."*

*I'm comin' up, on the rough side of the mountain.  
I must hold to God, His powerful hand.  
I'm comin' up, on the rough side of the mountain.  
I'm doin' my best to make it in.  
(repeat)*

Source: [Musixmatch](#) Songwriter: Fair Cloth Barnes

Rough Side of the Mountain lyrics © Bike Music

## WE RESPOND

Offering Our Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (*After each petition, please join in singing this Gospel refrain.*)

*Lead me, guide me, along the way, For if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.*

*(We conclude with the Lord's Prayer. Please use any version.)*

Presenting our Gifts

Offertory

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

African American/arr. Kenneth Morris

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Bless our tithes and offerings, O God, returned to you. Multiply and use these, and all your gifts, to bring the light of Christ's love through our lives to this community and throughout the world. Amen.**

## WE GO IN PEACE

\*Hymn

*When the Saints Go Marchin' In*

African American

*Oh, when the saints go marchin' in; Oh, when the saints go marchin' in,  
Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marchin' in!*

*Oh, when the sun begins to shine . . .*

*Oh, when the trumpet sounds the call . . .*

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

*When the Saints Go Marchin' In*

African American

*Oh, when the saints go marchin' in; Oh, when the saints go marchin' in,  
Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marchin' in!*

\*Postlude

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## ***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 the 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](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org). If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Guest Pianist Andy Kingston; the Sanctuary Choir, directed by André García-Nuthman; Javier Ortiz, Soloist; Dana Bender, Family Minister; Blanca Surgeon, Liturgist; Elijah Marquez, Social Media Coordinator with volunteer Frank Wilbanks, Videographer; and Ministers of Hospitality Louise Cavatta, Blanca Surgeon, Diane Darby, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

We are delighted to welcome jazz pianist Andy Kingston. Andy and his family have been a part of the United community for many years, and we have been blessed by their music throughout that time.

### **Pretty Good Guys All-Church Pancake Breakfast – TODAY!**

United's "Pretty Good Guys" rustle up some very good pancakes and invite you to join them for an All-Church Breakfast this morning after worship. All ages, all welcome! (For those interested, Council members will be in the Nurture Center to discuss the 2026 budget.)

The office is closed tomorrow, Monday, Feb. 16 in observance of Presidents' Day.

### **Wednesday Women's Study Group (Feb. 18 – 10:00 am)**

We continue our study of *American Ghost* by Hannah Hordhaus. All women welcome! (Cheryl Morton: 515-240-4523, [MomMorton@gmail.com](mailto:MomMorton@gmail.com); Jenn Wynn: 817-219-0707, [home@wynnes.us](mailto:home@wynnes.us)) And stay for the 12:00 noon Ash Wednesday service, too!

### **Congregational Mid-Winter Budget Meeting – Next Sunday, Feb. 22 (11:15 am)**

Join the Congregational Budget Meeting! 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 2026 United Ministries Budget (copies available in the Community Room). Thank you in advance for your participation!

### **New Members Welcomed**

#### **Joyous Sunday of Lent – March 15**

We'll receive new members into the United Church community on the Joyous Sunday of Lent (March 15). 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.)

### **Extend United's Welcome as Greeters or Ushers ("Ministers of Hopitality")**

Come at 9:30 for the 10:00 service and be the first in line to welcome people to United. It's simple—and it's central to who we want to be as a church community. Sign up on Sunday morning or contact Discipleship Development Chair Diane Darby (816-260-0127). Thanks!

### **At United, we seek to "Love God, Neighbor, Creation" in a whole lot of ways. . . .**

Support for Ukrainian and Central American refugees, reducing our carbon impact, emergency funds for our Diné/Navajo neighbors, and more! Go to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) to find out how you can help. Thank you!

### **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. (Also at church, **please put coffee cups and napkins in compost cans in the Community Room.**) 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 our partners *Tree New Mexico* and *NM Interfaith Power and Light*. Info: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care). (In 2024, United donated \$3,300, part of which came from individuals and the other part from the church's operating budget to offset carbon use of staff mileage.)

### **Music and History for Black History Month**

#### **KSFR 91.1 FM – This Monday (tomorrow) – 6:00 pm**

Talitha Arnold interviews Bettye Kearse (author of "Mr. Madison's Other Family" and United member) and Cecilia Webb, host of KUNM's weekly Gospel radio show, "Train to Glory." Tune in on Monday or go to the KSFR website for the recording.

## CALLED TO A NEW JOURNEY – LENT 2026

Each Gospel tells of Jesus' life and ministry in different ways. Our guide this Lent is the Gospel of John, composed (or compiled) toward the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. The Roman Empire still ruled with an iron fist, the eyewitnesses to Jesus were long dead, and the Resurrection wasn't even a distant memory. Whoever wrote John's Gospel had to make Jesus come alive solely through stories and teachings. Most all, the author had to make good on Jesus' promise of new life. Two millennia later, we face the same challenge. Let's rise to that challenge together in worship this Lent.



### WORSHIP IN LENT



**Ash Wednesday – Feb. 18  
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. And the Prophet Joel reminds us that it’s never too late to turn back to God’s ways. (Joel 1:2, 12-17) 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, God’s children, and God’s creation.

*The Real Temptations*  
**1<sup>st</sup> Lent – Feb. 22**

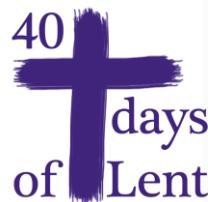
Deep in the wilderness, the Devil of Doubt entices a hungry Jesus to turn stones into bread, a lonely Jesus to test God’s love, and a perhaps fearful Jesus to lord his power over all nations. To face down the Great Distractor, Jesus must remember what he really hungers and longs for. (Matt.4:1-11) What are *our* deep hungers? What—or Who—do we long for? Lent begins with such questions.

### Midweek Communion in Lent – Wednesdays (12:15 pm to 12:45 pm)

Do you yearn for silence or an opportunity to breathe, pray, replenish? Starting Wednesday, Feb. 25, United offers a **Lenten Noontime Communion (12:15 - 12:45)**. All welcome to recharge and renew (through Holy Week: Wed., April 1).



### STUDY GROUP OPPORTUNITIES



*For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional*  
**Wednesday in Lent – 5:30 to 6:45 pm**  
**(Feb. 25 through March 25)**

Last fall, we began this powerful gem of a book, filled with scripture meditations, reflections, and portraits of people of courage and integrity. This Lent, we return to its wisdom and call to faith, hope, and action. It can guide our Christian response to this evermore challenging time. All welcome, even if you didn’t participate last fall. Signup and books in Community Room.

*Christianity’s American Fate:  
How Religion Became More Conservative and Society More Secular*  
**Wednesday Women’s Study Group – March 4 and 18 (10:00 to 11:30 am)**

David Hollinger, of the University of California Berkeley, provides the religious and secular background for what’s happening in our country. Later in March, we explore *Healer of the Water Monster*, a young adult novel by Diné/Navajo author Brian Young. All women welcome! (Cheryl Morton, [mommorton@gmail.com](mailto:mommorton@gmail.com); Jenn Wynne, [home@wynnes.us](mailto:home@wynnes.us)).

*What Are Biblical Values?*  
**Men’s Study Group**  
**Wednesdays—Feb. 25, March 11 and 25 (10:30 am to 12:00 noon)**

Through spring, the Pretty Good Guys invites all men to join in a study of “What Are Biblical Values?” by Yale professor John Collins. Books available for purchase in the Community Room. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

*Resiliency and Hope: Unpacking the Gospel of John*  
**Thursdays at 8:00 am – Zoom** (please register at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com))

John’s Gospel begins in the cosmos and ends with breakfast on the beach. In between is beautiful, confusing, challenging, troubling, head-scratching scripture. All welcome to join in this in-depth study (via Zoom).

### Other Study Opportunities

#### *Outgrow – 2026 Lenten Daily Devotional Booklets Available*

To deepen your own journey of Lent, please pick up a copy of the Lenten Daily Devotional Booklet, published by the national United Church of Christ that includes reflections from UCC leaders around the country (including ones by Talitha Arnold). Then join with others in Lent’s daily walk to Easter’s new life.