

PRAYERS FOR THE TURNING OF THE SEASONS AND THE TURNING OF OUR HEARTS

Our Lord, give us mercy from Your presence and let a right wisdom
order the situation in which we find ourselves.

Quran, Surah 18.10

Let the rain come and wash away
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory
of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us
wherever we are broken.
Let it push away the fog so that
we can see each other clearly.
So that we can see beyond labels,
beyond accents, gender or skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun
melt our selfishness, so we can share the joys and
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun be so strong,
that we will see all people as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain,
bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts
to reach upward to heaven. Amen.

Rabbi Harold Kushner

A Prayer for the Beginning of School

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

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

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

Monthly publication

United Church of Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

September 2024

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**UNITED CHURCH
OF SANTA FE**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**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,

This September, we welcome a number of special guests to United as we broaden our understanding of the mystery and power we call God—and our understanding of all God's people and God's work in this world. More information about these upcoming worship and education opportunities is found throughout this newsletter.

I hope you'll plan to join in these unique worship and education opportunities. I also hope you'll invite friends and neighbors to join you. These events demonstrate what the United Church of Santa Fe has to offer. They can also expand people's perceptions and perspectives on Christianity and Christian churches—e.g., that we do honor and respect other faith traditions, that being a Christian means working for peace and understanding, and that a Christian church can be a place that expands horizons and deepens hope.

Here's a quick glimpse of what we're offering:

- **On Fiesta Sunday, Sept. 8, we welcome Cantor Barbara Finn and Ms. Tammie Ortega** in 10:00 worship as we celebrate the many voices of New Mexico, musically and historically. Cantor Finn (a friend and colleague of United's Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe) recently retired as Cantor for Albuquerque's Temple Albert. She has extensive background in diverse Jewish traditions, including *Ladino* (from Spain). Tammie Ortega is a long-time United Church member, who was born and still lives in Guadalupita (north of Mora, north of Las Vegas). Tammie comes from a long line of *Norteño* Ortegas, the Sephardic Jews of Spain who fled the Inquisition and immigrated to New Spain (i.e., the mountains of New Mexico) four hundred years ago.
- **On Wednesday, Sept. 18, the Women's Study Group welcomes renowned author and mystery writer, Anne Hillerman**—and they also welcome the rest of the congregation and wider community to join the presentation. A former journalist, Anne has continued and expanded her father Tony Hillerman's award-winning mysteries featuring Navajo/Diné police officers Joe Leaphorn, Jim Chee, and now Bernadette Manuelito.
- **Finally, Sept. 15-16, United Church welcomes the founders of Roots**, a West Bank Palestinian Israeli initiative for understanding, non-violence, and transformation. Ever since the October 7 Hamas' attack and the devastating war in Gaza that followed, United Church's Council and I have discussed how we as church should and could respond. This January, with support from the Church Council, I contacted Orthodox Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, one of Roots' founders, to see if he and Palestinian activist Noor A'wad could come to Santa Fe to share their story and their important work. (I had met Rabbi Schlesinger and the Roots community in the Israel/Palestine in 2019.) On Sunday, Sept. 15, they are our guests in the 10:00 worship service and Rabbi Schlesinger will lead the Sunday Forum. On Monday evening, Sept. 16, United will host a community-wide presentation with both Rabbi Schlesinger and Mr. A'wad, that we are jointly sponsoring with Temple Beth Shalom. (The Monday event requires pre-registration: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/rootspresentation.)

United is blessed with this abundance of guests and presentations this fall. Please mark your calendars, plan to participate – and tell your friends and neighbors what you've found at United and what Christianity is really all about.

Blessings,



Worship in September

Who Is Jesus Christ? And Why Does It Matter?

As we look to United's future—and as the message and nature of Jesus Christ gets lots of press—we'll focus on the question: "Who was—and is—Jesus Christ?" What questions do you have about Jesus? What difficulty do you have with Jesus Christ—or the name Christian? Why do such questions matter? We began engaging these questions this summer. Many of this fall's scriptures are a chance to continue our exploration. Join in—and bring a friend!

8:30 Outdoor Contemplative Communion Service
10:00 Indoor Service (in person and livestreamed)

Doing the Word – September 1 (Labor Day Sunday)

Martin Luther in the 16th Century referred to the Epistle of James as "epistula pabulae" literally "epistle of straw (fodder – what is fed to cattle)" because [for himself] it failed to explicitly mention Jesus Christ which he saw as a fundamental aspect of the Gospel. Also, he thought that the emphasis of the letter on works and not justification by faith contradicted Paul. Later Luther removed that phrase, but his original critique is still remembered. Guest preacher Rev. Ben Larzelere explores this "strawy" and challenging text. We'll also share Communion at both services.

A Fiesta of Song – September 8 (Fiesta Sunday)

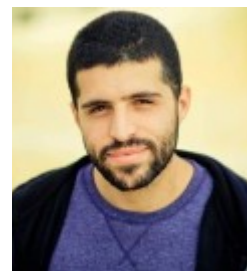
Santa Fe Fiesta is a time of homecoming and celebrating all the histories and people who make up our community. This Sunday, we're joined by Cantor Barbara Finn (a friend and colleague of Bradley Ellingboe) who'll share music from Jewish traditions (including Ladino songs) and also United's Tammie Ortega, a 12th-generation Norteña whose lineage includes Conversos (Spanish Jewish refugees who were exiled from Spain during the Inquisition and immigrated to Northern New Mexico). The day's scripture—Psalm 146—sings praise to God, who created heaven and earth and also "executes justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, watches over the stranger, and upholds the orphan and widow." What a faith we share! ¡Que Viva!

Jesus Learns Who His Neighbor Is – September 15

(no 8:30 service this Sunday)



As we welcome our Roots guests—Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Palestinian peace activist Noor A'wad—the Gospel of Mark (7: 24-37) tells of Jesus' encounter with a woman of a different ethnic, national, and religious background. When she asks him to heal her daughter, he initially rebuffs her. But when she counters his insult with courage and determination, Jesus repents, and the little girl is healed. Perhaps Jesus himself was healed from his own prejudice—a problem for all us humans. A great story of learning anew who our neighbor is. Rabbi Schlesinger will also lead us in prayer during the service.



Aspiring to Greatness – September 22

Within days after Jesus' and his disciples' mountaintop mystical experience of the Transfiguration, he tells the twelve again that he would be betrayed, denied, and put to death. Not a far-fetched future for someone who proclaimed a very different realm from the empire of Rome. His disciples' response? They argue among themselves about who is the greatest (Mark 9:30-37). The Gospel leaves out Jesus' likely response: "Oy vey!" Like the disciples, we who seek to follow Jesus' way must choose our definition of greatness—Jesus' or Rome's.

Identified by Our Works, Not Just Our Words – September 29

The disciples complain to Jesus about someone casting out demons in his name. They'd told him to stop, but Jesus tells them not to hinder deeds of power and compassion. (Mark 9:38-39) The story poses the question: What does it mean to be Christian? Simply assuming the name? Professing a creedal formula? Or does it mean committing to certain actions, doing what Christ did? Jazz Pianist Andy Kingston is our guest in the 10:00 service for a morning of gospel and spirituals. A great Sunday to welcome new members.

All God's Critters – October 6 (St. Francis Sunday)

On the Sunday we honor the patron saint of Santa Fe and environmentalism, bring your pet, a picture of your pet, or just yourself (and maybe a friend!) to a howling great Pet Blessing service. We'll sing, pray, and give thanks for all the ways our four-legged or winged friends show us God's love and God's imagination.



Music

Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music

Children & Youth

Karen Wilbanks, Chair

It's time to start our regular rehearsal season again and what a fine autumn it's going to be! Rehearsals begin on Wed., Sept. 4 at 7:00 pm. And we return to singing every Sunday with "Fiesta Sunday" on Sept. 8.

That will be a special day when my friend Barbara Finn, recently retired as Cantor at Congregation Albert in Albuquerque, teaches us about the music of her tradition, including songs in Ladino (Judeo-Spanish). Also, the choir sings a setting of Psalm 146, the appointed text for that Sunday. On Sunday, Sept. 15 we have a very special service with a rabbi and a Palestinian peace activist (see elsewhere in the newsletter) at which time we'll sing a piece of mine, "Blessed Be the Lord," which is a text I trust people of all faith traditions can get behind.

On Sept. 22 we'll sing an arrangement of "Lord, Whose Love, Through Humble Service" written by Karen Marolli, my predecessor at United. And the 29th we'll raise the roof with a setting of "Witness" ("Who'll be a witness to my Lord?") with guest pianist, Jazz musician Andy Kingston.

The choir is preparing Bach's Reformation Cantata for the last Sunday of October. Think about joining us and singing that masterpiece!

Soli Deo Gloria

Brad



Singer, Songwriter, Pianist Ken Medema
Saturday, Nov. 9 - 3:00 pm
*Cookies, Conversation,
and Concert*

FebFest 2025
Saturday, Feb. 8 - Sunday, Feb. 9
Renowned Conductor
Brandon Boyd

WELCOME

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Sunday, September 29

On the last Sunday of September, we welcome new members into the United Church of Santa Fe. If you are interested in "officially" joining United, please speak with Rev. Talitha Arnold or Moderator Sarah Sawtell. Thank you!

Update on

Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries

A Quick Snapshot

In August, over four worship services, we blessed United's students, parents, and educators for the start of school. United's 36 children, youth, and college freshman represent six different colleges, and 18 different Santa Fe schools (nine public, four private, three charter, and two international magnet). When it comes to shepherding children, youth and families, it's a different world from the one many of us knew. But United's Children's and Youth Ministry Team and staff are committed to finding ways to connect our kids with one another, with caring adults, and especially with God the Creator and the story of Jesus Christ.

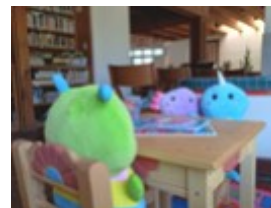


Join United's "Prayer Child" Ministry

Each fall, United members and friends volunteer to pray daily for a child or youth in the congregation. This year we're also asking Prayer Child Pray-ers to send Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Birthday cards to their "Pray-ees." The church will provide the cards, addresses, and even stamps.

In a world where families often do not live near extended family, we want to fill in the gaps with the church family. As educator Neil Postman affirmed, "Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see."

So ... will you pray for a United child or youth each day? Sign up at church or unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Thank you!



Check Out the New Children's
"Pray-Ground" in the Sanctuary
and the Children's Garden Outside!

Plans in the Works
for Developing Outdoor Exploration,
Re-creation, and Education Spaces
for Children and Youth.
Learn more at September 29 Sunday Forum!



CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks for:

- The **Shelter Volunteers, organized by Pat Roach**, for making casseroles and meatloaves, buying supplies, and delivering hearty and healthy suppers to Santa Fe's Shelter's each month.
- The **Drop-in Choir** singers, directed by Bradley Ellingboe and accompanied by Dr. Jessie Lo, for blessing us monthly with their singing in worship this summer; United's Choral Scholars, other adult and youth musicians, and Santa Fe Opera Apprentices, who have also enriched worship through the summer.
- The **8:30 service volunteers** who've shown up each Sunday to set up chairs, etc. for outdoor worship.
- **Laura Johnson**, who sang the National Anthem at the United Church Fuego Night and **Nika Knoll**, who threw the first pitch.
- The dozen-plus volunteer **chair shampooers, furniture movers, hymnal dusters**, all organized by Property/Maintenance chair **Bob Ansheles**.
- All who are helping us stay connected, sane, faithful, healthy, and hopeful!

Prayers of Blessing and New Life for:

- **Destiny Muñoz (Maria Navarette's daughter)**, starting college at New Mexico State University; **Corrine Jones' daughters, Ailey** starting at Richmond American University in London, and **Luci**, starting at the University of Arizona.
- **Carlos Lee's and Russell Stowers'** new exchange student from Italy, **Tiago**, and all United's **students and educators**, beginning a new school year.
- **Gail Mattson**, who moved to California to be closer to family (4230 Clayton Road Rm 147 / Concord, CA 94521).

Healing and Hope for:

- The family and friends of **Jere Turner**, long-time United member who recently moved to Missouri to be closer to family and who passed away August 12; friends and family of **Dorothy Karayanis** (including **Craig Hoopes**) following her death in early August.
- **Dave Wilkison and Nancy Witter**, as Dave recovers from a broken femur and is in a skilled nursing center in Albuquerque; **Trudy Swint**, recovering from knee surgery; **Janet Harris' 6-month great-niece Nora Louise**, following 2 days of extensive surgery; **Rev. Kathleen Jimenez and her husband Michael Chamberlain**, as she was hospitalized again in July; **Steven Menzies and Melissa Salazar's 4-year-old grandson Amari and his parents**, dealing with a new diagnosis of juvenile diabetes; **Maria Navarette**, dealing with severe pain and dental issues; **Eva and Lenz Neuhauser** as she recovers from back surgery; **Diane Bethune**, following a car accident.
- Those dealing with continuing health issues (**Janyth Fell, Theresa Kline**), and others facing health uncertainty.
- Those living with cancer and those who love and care for them (**Alice Casey and Cliff Beck's daughter** whose cancer has spread; **Greg and Linda Gaertner, Prof. David Daniels, Anna Spalding, Diane Bethune's brother Jeffery, Mary Hasbah Roessel's brother Monty, Connie Romero's sister Vickie**, and others).
- Those with **memory loss** and all who care for them (including **Royce and Carolyn Stewart, Rev. Christine and Paul Vogel**, and others); persons living with Parkinson's or other neurological conditions (**Cliff Beck, Sandy Vermillion, Diane Johnston's sister, Msgr. Jerome Martinez**, and others); those with chronic illness (**Brooke Roberts, Cynde Christie, Jan McGough**, and others).
- Persons in long-term care or assisted living (**Rhae Burden, Helen Wagner, Merry and Al Converse, Natalie Wells, Rev. Roger and Linda Knapp**, and others).
- Individuals and families dealing with mental health, suicidal issues, 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.)
- Persons who are imprisoned and those who love them.
- The people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, and Lebanon, along with Jews, Palestinians, and other Muslims living in the U.S. as war and violence continue; government and military leaders in Israel/Palestine, as well as the U.S. and other countries who need God's wisdom, guidance, and commitment to a just peace.
- Continued prayers for Ukraine, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Venezuela, and other places also impacted by war; immigrants seeking asylum from violence; **policymakers** who determine their fate.
- Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation.

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 September



On Call: John Shaffer (505) 466-4372
Food: June Yoder (505) 503-0555

Outreach

LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR, LOVE CREATION

Outreach Opportunities – Thank you!

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

Summer Drive for the Food Depot

The Food Depot supplies Northern N.M. schools, shelters, and agencies with good food year-round.



Needed items: jumbo packages/cans of vegetables/fruit, pasta, rice, high-protein foods (dried beans, canned meats, soups); baby foods (powdered formula, cereal, jars of baby food); diapers. Monetary donations also welcome. Checks to United Church (memo: Food Depot) or online: unitedchurchofsantafe.org. The deadline is Sunday, Sept. 22. Thank you!

United's Shelter Supper Ministries Offer Food and Care

United provides supper (entrée, veggie casserole, salad, dessert) monthly to Santa Fe Shelters. Want to help? Come to "Chop and Grate" Friday, Sept. 20 (9:30 am) or deliver food to shelters Monday, Sept. 23 or make meatloaf at home. Interested? Please contact Pat Roach (proach102@comcast.net). You can also support this ministry with check or online donations (memo: shelter meals). Thank you!



Santa Fe River Cleanup

Saturday, September 28 (8:30-10:00 am)

Join us to care for our corner of Creation. Meet at Closson St. Pedestrian Bridge. We provide the donuts, coffee, and trash bags. You bring a hat, sunscreen, and gloves. Please sign up in the Community Room, call 505-988-3295 or email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. All Creation thanks you!

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/creation-care.



Many Thanks to All Who Supported One Great Hour of Sharing

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of members and friends, United will send \$4,425 to One Great Hour of Sharing, the ecumenical and global refugee, disaster and development organization.

Supporting Our Diné/Navajo Brothers and Sisters

Your financial support for food and cleaning supplies along with gardening needs continue to make a difference. Donations are sent to United's long-time partner, the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, in Fort Defiance, Arizona.



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! **Also during Fellowship Time**, please put used cups and napkins in the compost bin in the Community Room.



Ping-Pong at United?

Whether you call it ping-pong or table tennis, we invite United members and friends who are Enthusiasts, beginners, and those in between to potentially join us for a ping-pong session (future date(s) and time(s) to be determined). We have a wonderful ping-pong table here at United and are looking to plan a gathering of sorts this fall. Interested? Please contact Elijah at unitedchurch.elijah@gmail.com.

Adult Faith Formation

September Sunday Forums – 11:15

September 8

Jewish Roots in Northern New Mexico

United's Tammie Ortega's roots are deep in the multi-racial, multireligious, multicultural mix that is northern New Mexico. Her great-grandfather Gould immigrated from Scotland to Guadalupita (north of Mora, which is north of Las Vegas) when it was still part of Mexico, not the U.S. The name Ortega is from the Sephardic tradition—the Jews who escaped Spain during the Inquisition. Hers is a great story for Fiesta Sunday!

September 15

Hassidic Texts of Passionate Pluralism Orthodox Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger of Roots

Guided by Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, we'll explore Jewish Hasidic texts—about pluralism and what may be called “the humility of the journey”—that give us a wonderful theoretical framework for how to hold the stick from both ends at the same time - to be passionately dedicated to what you believe in and at the same time to listen to, respect, learn from and even accept opposing truths. These texts provide some of the Jewish theological foundations for the work of *Roots* that tries to find room in our hearts for both the Jewish and the Palestinian narratives and experiences.

September 22

Envisioning United's Outdoor Children & Youth Space

A major United project this year is developing outdoor spaces for children and youth to gather, play, explore, and learn. Join in this forum to share your ideas and also hear others'



September 29

Who Is Jesus Christ? And Why Does It Matter? (Part 2)

As shared at the August Annual Meeting, we're considering amending the United's covenant to include some mention of Jesus Christ. (Right now, he's not in it.) A place to start is engaging in the question of the message, identity, and nature of Jesus Christ. Who was Jesus Christ? Who is Jesus Christ for you? Why? And why do such questions matter? It's a crucial conversation for a church to engage—plan to join in!

All Church Burrito Brunch!

Fiesta Labor Day Sunday – September 8

What better way to celebrate Fiesta Sunday than a Burrito Brunch with your church community? Stay after the 10:00 service and share the fellowship, along with burritos, fruit, and dessert! Sign up today!



Groups and Gatherings

**Wednesday Women's Study Group
Starts Sept. 4 at 10:00 am
with quite a reading list!**

The Wednesday Women's Study Group meets through May 2025 on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 10:00 to 11:30 am. They're reading lots of good books over the next nine months. You're invited to join in! (*The Making of Biblical Womanhood* by Beth Allison Barr and *Lost Birds* by Anne Hillerman are the first two books.) For more information or the full book list for the year, please contact Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, mommorton@gmail.com) or Jenn Wynn (817-219-0707, home@wynnes.us).

**Award-winning Author Anne Hillerman
Wednesday, September 18 – 10:00 am
Wednesday Women's Study Group
Invite YOU to join in!**

The Wednesday Women's Study Group is reading Anne Hillerman's latest Manuelito-Leaphorn-Chee mystery, *Lost Birds*, this fall. Thanks to Anne's friendship with Talitha Arnold, she is coming to United on Wed., Sept. 18. and the Study Group invites the United community to join in the conversation and book signing. All welcome!



Pretty Good Guys

**Start New Study in September
(2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10:30 to 12:00)**

The “Guys” finished *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* this summer and are getting ready for their next in-depth study. That hasn't been chosen at the time of this newsletter's publication, so stay tuned. All United men and friends are invited to join in the lively and wide-ranging discussion about the role of religion, Christianity, and faith in our lives and the world.

***Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of Mark*
Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom
September 12, 19, 26**

Engage the Gospel of Mark, start to finish (don't worry, it's the shortest Gospel), using the United Church of Christ Study Guide (written by Talitha). Info/register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. All welcome!

**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!

OUTDOOR, IN-PERSON, AND LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED

United Church is also United (in-person and online) Church! We offer the **10:00 am Sunday service in-person** and also **livestreamed online** (access it on United’s website: unitedchurchofsantafe.org). We also offer an **outdoor 8:30 am Contemplative Communion Service**. For indoor events, N95 masks are recommended. For more information about United’s programs, please call 505-988-3295, send an email to unitedchurchsf@gmail.com, go to our website. Thank you!