

**UNA FIESTA DE GRATITUD**

**(A FIESTA OF GRATITUDE)**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE  
A United Church of Christ**

**September 13, 2026  
10:00 A.M.**

*fiesta: (fe'es'ta) Spanish, from the Latin, “festa”—meaning feast, festival,  
a celebration of the saints’ days or other special days in the life of the community.*

**WE GATHER**

Gathering Music

*Spanish Dance in C Minor  
Santo from Misa Santa Fe*

Enrique Granados  
Mary Francis Reza/arr. M. Schumann

\*Introit

**Heleluyan** (2x)  
(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Muskogee Native American



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Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

Breathing in and Sharing God’s Gifts *Blessings for this Blessed Day!*

Sharing God’s Peace and Regathering **Heleluyan** (1x) Muskogee Native American

Breathing in God’s Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship *Alleluya from Misa Santa Fe* Mary Francis Reza

A Call to Worship (**congregation in bold**)

Sing praise to God, for God is good!

**¡Gracias por la vida!**

Give thanks for friends and family, for church homes and all the ways God loves us.

**¡Gracias por la vida!**

Give thanks for food, for bread and wine, and all the ways God feeds us.

**¡Gracias por la vida!**

Give thanks for all of life!

**¡Gracias por la vida!**

\*Hymn

528

**Sois la semilla**

Cesáreo Gabaráin

(After the choir sings the opening Spanish verse of *Sois la semilla*, please stand and join in English verses 1 and 2.  
Please note that we repeat the music of each verse and the refrain.)

## WE PREPARE

### \*In a Prayer of Invocation and Confession (cong. bold)

In your name, O Lord, we gather this day.

**Lord, hear us. Señor, escúchanos.**

Open us to your presence among us.

**Señor, escúchanos.**

Give us voices to sing your praise and hearts to trust your presence.

**Señor, escúchanos.**

Forgive us for the harm we have done and the good we have left undone.

Remind us always there is more grace in you than sin in us.

**Señor, escúchanos.**

Fill us with your hope, feed us with your love, and guide us by your Spirit.

**Señor, escúchanos.**

Then from this gathering, send us into your world that we might minister in love to all persons, strive for justice and peace, and respond to your word in our lives.

**Señor, escúchanos.**

### \*A Time of Silent Prayer

### \*The Affirmation of God's Presence and Grace

### \*Our Song of Praise

*Alabaré (2x)*

Mexican Traditional

*¡Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi Señor!*

*¡Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi Señor!*

*(Sing praise, sing praise to my Lord!)*

### \*Blessing of the Children

## WE ENGAGE

### A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Psalm 103:1-8

*Bendice al Señor, alma mía,  
y todo mi ser bendiga su santo nombre.  
Bendice al Señor, alma mía,  
y no olvides ninguno de sus beneficios:  
él perdona todas tus iniquidades  
y sana todas tus enfermedades;  
él rescata tu vida del sepulcro  
y te corona de amor y misericordia;  
él te colma de bienes durante toda tu vida,  
para que tu juventud se renueve como la del águila.  
El Señor hace justicia  
y defiende a todos los oprimidos.  
El Señor dio a conocer sus caminos santos a Moisés  
y al pueblo de Israel.  
El Señor es misericordioso y clemente,  
lento para la ira y rico en amor.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all God's benefits,  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
The Lord works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
The Lord made known the holy ways to Moses  
and to the people of Israel.  
The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

### Hymn

*Santo, Santo, Santo*

¡San - to, san - to, san-to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios.  
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

Silent Reflection

Musical Response 499

*Pues si vivimos*  
(1<sup>st</sup> Spanish, 1<sup>st</sup> English)

Traditional Mexican

**WE RESPOND AND RECEIVE**Offering Our Prayers (inspired by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders a few years ago)

God, Creator of our world, we give you thanks for the gifts of your Spirit and this community of faith. Move and inspire us this day—as you moved the spirits and inspired the commitment and faith of the Psalmist.

***Dios Santo, gracias. Holy God, hear our prayers.***

We thank you, God, for friends and family, love and support, and all the things that encourage smiles and invite laughter. We pray for all the children and adults who yearn for love and wait for laughter.

***Dios Santo, gracias. Holy God, hear our prayers.***

We thank you, God, for food and the things that nurture our bodies—including pizza, cookies, ice cream, and chocolate. We pray that your earth continues to bless all people while we give thanks for our abundance.

***Dios Santo, gracias. Holy God, hear our prayers.***

We thank you, God, for school and days off, for work and rest, for service and being served. We pray that all people will find places of meaning and opportunities to use their gifts.

***Dios Santo, gracias. Holy God, hear our prayers.***

We pray, God, that violence, war, and sadness will be overcome by peace, love, and hope.

***Dios Santo, gracias. Holy God, hear our prayers.***

We pray, God, that shelter is given, love is shared, and justice is known in this community of faith and beyond this place.

***Dios Santo, gracias. Holy God, hear our prayers.***

God, we give thanks for your presence, creation, and your spirit that moves us this day—may you hear all of our prayers, spoken and unspoken. Guide us with your spirit, protect us with your grace, and call us into the reality of the good news. We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray together saying...

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

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

*Glorificar al Señor*

Refugio Gomez

Prayer of Dedication

**WE GO OUT IN PEACE**

\*Hymn 402

*De colores* (English verses)

Mexican Folk Song

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction 402

*De colores* (Spanish verse)

Mexican Folk Song

**Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory.*****WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!***

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We hope you'll also join in the fellowship time after the service. If you're visiting today, we're glad you're here! Please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are the Rev. Jeff Hopson, Guest Preacher; Michelle Schumann, Director of Music/Pianist; the United Choir; Christina Martos, Javier Ortiz, Soloists; Dana Bender, Family Ministry Director; Blanca Surgeon, Sam and Molly Elkind Liturgists; Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator, and audio volunteer Joe Jones. You were welcomed by Frank and Beth Cioneck, Blanca Surgeon, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

We again welcome Rev. Jeff Hopson as our guest preacher today. Jeff Hopson grew up in a family of four kids (the Four J's) on a registered Hereford ranch in northeastern New Mexico. A graduate of Oklahoma State and Pittsburgh Theological School, he has 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.

### **Children and Youth Today**

- Nursery care for **infants and toddlers** (offered by Maria Navarette) and a time of songs, prayers, and stories for **Pre-K's and Kinders** (led by Tracy Church) is in the Nurture Center Sunday mornings, starting at 9:45.
- Following the "Song of Praise and Blessing of Children," **elementary-age children** are invited to *Kids United* to tend the Children's Garden, sing, and continue a unit called "Blessing and Letting Go."
- **Youth (age 6th grade and up)** will meet in the Youth Room downstairs after the service get to catch up on what's new, set some goals for the year, and plan our field trip (Sept. 27) and overnight retreat (Oct. 23-24). Grab a burrito and join!

### ***Fiesta Sunday All Church Burrito Brunch – Today!***

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

Talitha Arnold is away through this Tuesday, Sept. 15. If a pastoral need arises, please contact Rev. Ben Larzelere (505-690-1000), Pastoral Caregiver on Call June Yoder (505-503-0555), or the church office (505-988-3295).

### **Make United's Welcome a Real Deal!**

We want to be a welcoming community every Sunday—we need your help to do that! Sign up today to greet/usher. Thanks!

### **The Week Ahead**

#### ***Wednesday Women's Study Group "The Lion Women of Tehran" – Sept. 16 at 10:00 am***

From September through May, the group reads lots of great books and on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month (10:00-11:30 am), we meet to discuss them. You're invited to join in! We continue with *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali. Info: Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, [MomMorton@gmail.com](mailto:MomMorton@gmail.com)), Jenn Wynn (817-219-0707, [home@wynnes.us](mailto:home@wynnes.us)).

#### **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals – Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and sings in the 10:00 service Sunday (9:00 rehearsal). All welcome! Please contact Music Director Michelle Schumann ([unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com)).

#### **United's Shelter Supper Ministries Offer Food and Care**

United provides monthly suppers (meat loaf, veggie casserole, salad, dessert) to St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters. Want to help? **Come to "Chop and Grate" Friday, Sept. 18 (9:00 am)** or deliver food to shelters that afternoon (1:00 pm) or make meatloaf at home. Interested? Please contact Cathy Garret ([cathygarrett1@gmail.com](mailto:cathygarrett1@gmail.com)). You can also support this ministry with check (memo: shelter meals) or online donations. Thank you!

#### **Desert Chorale's *Santa Fe Sings!* – Next Saturday, Sept. 19 (9:30 am - 2:30 pm)**

Led by Artistic Director Josh Habermann (with Michelle Schumann at the piano), this community-wide, full-day singing workshop is open to the public! To join in, register at [Santa Fe Sings! – Santa Fe Desert Chorale](#). You're also welcome to simply come to the 2:00 pm free public concert and enjoy the 100+ voices. It's a terrific event for United to host and we'd love for you to be a part of it!

#### **Newcomer Orientation—Next Sunday, Sept. 20 – 11:15 am**

Like to learn more about the United Church of Santa Fe? Explore where you are on the journey of life and faith? You're invited to the Newcomers Orientation next Sunday at 11:15. Attending an Orientation isn't a commitment to join, but an opportunity to learn more about the church. Please RSVP in the Community Room or call the church office (988-3295).

#### **New Members Welcomed Sunday, Sept. 27**

We welcome new members on Sunday, Sept. 27. If you're interested in joining or would like more information, please let Talitha Arnold or Diane Darby know. Thanks!

#### **Youth field trip to New Mexico Wildlife Center – Sunday, Sept. 27**

We will leave shortly after the 10:00 service begins and return at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 for children under 18. See Dana Bender for details and to reserve a spot!

#### ***How Does United Work?—Sunday Forum, Sept. 27 – 11:15***

Our church is active in huge variety of fields, both inside and outside the church walls. It's all accomplished with the broad involvement of its members, friends, and staff. But how are these efforts coordinated and completed? This Sunday, you're invited to "lift the hood" on the United Church. What are the Ministry Teams and other essential groups that make up United's multiple ministries? How do things get funded? What's our volunteer strength—and what's needed? Explore and learn together "How United Works!"

### **UNITED CHURCH SUPPORT FOR NEW MEXICO FIRE RELIEF**

The United Church of Santa Fe invites your monetary donations for emergency and long-term fire relief for the communities, firefighters and creation impacted by the Frijoles Fire still burning in the Pecos Forest. All donations will be sent to the Santa Fe Community Foundation that is coordinating relief and assistance efforts. You can donate by check or cash (memo: "Fire Relief") or online ([unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org)). Thank you.