

A PRAYER FOR NEW LIFE IN THE SEASON OF EASTERTIDE

Remember

Joy Harjo

Remember the sky you were born under,
know each of the star's stories.
Remember the moon, know who she is.
Remember the sun's birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember sundown
and the giving away to night.
Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath. You are evidence of
her life, and her mother's, and hers.
Remember your father. He is your life, also.
Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth,
brown earth, we are earth.
Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them,
listen to them. They are alive poems.
Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe.
Remember you are all people and all people
are you.
Remember you are this universe and this
universe is you.
Remember all is in motion, is growing, is you.
Remember language comes from this.
Remember the dance language is, that life is.
Remember.

A PRAYER FOR EARTH DAY

Lord, make this world to last as long as possible.
(Prayer of an 11-year-old child on hearing of war on a nearby border.)

AN EASTER PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

God of ceaseless new beginnings,
fill your child (name) with your new life,
this day and every day. Amen.

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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,

The Bulgarians and Belarussians call it "The Great Day." The Croats and Armenians say it's "Resurrection." The Hungarian and Estonian words for it mean "buying meat." In many cultures, it's some variation of Pasque (Pascua in Spanish), deriving from the Hebrew "Pescha," or Passover.

"It" is Easter—a name that only started being used in the 8th century. The English title for the day apparently derives from "Eostre," the Teutonic goddess of fertility—whose symbol was the rabbit (as in "multiply like bunnies").

But it's the Koreans, Latvians, and Lithuanians who get it right. Koreans call Easter "Resurrection Season." The Latvians and Lithuanians name it "The Great Days" (no singular exists).

By any name, Easter/Pascua is a season. The Christian celebration of Easter isn't just one day but **50 days** of feasting and rejoicing in new life. That's 10 days longer than Lent's 40-day discipline of fasting and solemn songs. I think that tells us something about what our priorities as Christians should be—i.e., thanks and joy.

Yet, I know for myself as perhaps for you, I can easily forget Easter's good news, especially its promise of new beginnings and second chances. Trusting God's new life throughout Easter's 50 days can take as much intentionality as any Lenten discipline.

Sharing a commitment with others can sometimes help keep us on track. To that end, on Easter Sunday, everyone—children, youth, adults—who joins in either the 6:30 Easter Sunrise or 10:00 Celebration in the Sanctuary will receive an "Eastertide Journal." (We'll also try to get them to the intown virtual congregation.)

The pocketsize notebooks will have 50 blank pages to record at least one experience of new life each of Eastertide's 50 days. It could be as simple as a new bud on a geranium in a window or as glorious as a Santa Fe sunrise. It might be a conversation with a good friend or something new you learned that day.

Whether you write or sketch, fill a full page or just jot down a word is up to you. The Eastertide Journal is not a test, and you don't have to turn it in at the end of the 50 days :-). If you want to share your journal with others, that's fine. But first and foremost, taking time each day to record one experience of new life is a way to strengthen our own trust that God is a God of life and that God is still at work in this world.

As we've explored through Lent, I think we may need that trust even more in the time ahead.

Ten days longer than Lent, the season of Eastertide reminds us time and again of God's intention for us and all creation—new life, new hope. I hope you'll join in on Easter Sunday—and in the 50 days that follow!

Blessings,



Worship in April

HOLY WEEK

Emptied

Palm Sunday

March 24 (8:30 & 10:00 am)



We begin the 10:00 service as the Palm Sunday crowd, singing “Hosanna” and waving branches. But the story leads us to four nights later, when Jesus prayed alone, as his disciples slept and Judas sold him out. No ecstatic crowd, just a desperately lonely man praying, “Remove this cup, O Lord.” An ancient Christian hymn describes Jesus as the one who “emptied himself.” What must we empty within ourselves to take the journey that follows?

Maundy Thursday March 28 (7:00 pm)

We share Communion, followed by the story of Jesus’ Passion that leads us into night’s deepest shadows.

Good Friday—March 29 Creation Care – 9:00 to 11:30 Good Friday Worship – Noon

We gather outside, as they did on the first Good Friday, to engage this hard once again, through Gospel and music. The Sanctuary will also be open until 3:00 pm for private prayer.

A decorative banner for Easter Sunday. On the left, there are cherry blossoms against a blue sky. On the right, there is a white lily flower. The background is a solid blue color.

**50 Days of Easter
EASTER SUNDAY
March 31**

**6:30 am – Outdoor Sunrise Service
10:00 am – All Age Celebration of the Resurrection**

EASTERTIDE WORSHIP

For Christians, Easter isn’t just one day. It’s a 50-day season (10 days longer than Lent). Worship continues the celebration and the challenge of the Resurrection—both Jesus’ and ours.

8:30 Contemplative Communion — 10:00 Sanctuary Service with Choir and special music
Online services continue, too!

***Thank God for Thomas* 2nd Easter – April 7**

The disciple Thomas gets a bad rap. Just because he wanted first-hand proof (literally) of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, he’s labeled “Doubting Thomas.” (John 20:19-31) A more accurate name is “Truthful Thomas,” as he expressed what many of us also need. United Church Council members lead both services.

***We Had Hoped* 3rd Easter – April 14**

The early Christians were an honest group, especially when it came to the difficulty of believing in new life. “We had hoped,” two disciples confessed to a stranger on the road that led away from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:13-34) Despite the women’s eyewitness testimony, the two men still couldn’t believe in new beginnings—whether Jesus’ or their own. Can you?



***Like a Good Shepherd* 4th Easter and Earth Day – April 21**

Both Jews and Christians often image God as the shepherd who cares for the sheep, even to giving up one’s life for their safety and well-being. (Psalm 23 and John 10:11-18) This Sunday before Earth Day, can we live into our call to be Good Shepherds in our care for creation?

***Abide* 5th Easter – April 28**

Jesus may have been a carpenter’s son, but he apparently knew his horticulture. “I am the vine, you are the branches,” he told his followers. (John 15:1-11) “Apart from the vine, the branches cannot bear fruit,” he said, “and neither can you.” But surely, Jesus, you’re not talking about us rugged individuals who’ve pulled ourselves up by our bootstraps in our own unique and independent ways. Or maybe you are.

Music

As we head into Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, the musical life of the church is at its peak. Palm Sunday begins with a processional reminding us of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, after which the choir sings "Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates." But by the end of the service, we will have descended far into the Holy Week story, singing *Agnus Dei* ("Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world..."), accompanied by cello. The service ends with a haunting rendition of "Were You There?" The choir sings again on Maundy Thursday, continuing this Lent's custom of singing versions of "We adore you, O Christ" (*Adoramus te, Christe*). Good Friday's midday outdoor service will be graced by the singing of choral scholar Yasmeen Lookman. And the 10:00 Easter service culminates with our annual tradition of the choir and congregation singing "Hallelujah" from Handel's *Messiah*.

After providing so much music for this holy season, the choir gets a well-deserved rest the week after Easter. And as we head into April and Eastertide, the music will illuminate the readings of Jesus' ministry after the resurrection. A full and busy time of year!

Bradley Ellingboe
Director of Music



Desert Chorale's *Santa Fe Sings!* Saturday, April 27 at United

United is proud to be the home of the annual choral workshop *Santa Fe Sings!*, sponsored by the Desert Chorale and led by their music director, Joshua Habermann. This takes place on Sat., April 27. Check-in and coffee hour begins at 8:45 am, and the workshop culminates in a 2:00 pm informal performance in our sanctuary. For more information or to register, go to: desertchorale.org/concerts-events/santa-fe-sings/.

Coro Lux Concert: *An Afternoon at the Movies* Sunday, April 28, 4:00 and 6:00 pm

The *Coro Lux* Chamber Chorus (directed by Brad Ellingboe) presents "An Afternoon at the Movies" at 4:00 and 6:00 pm at **Albuquerque's Canteen Brewhouse (2381 Aztec Rd., NE)**. The program includes choral arrangements and audience sing-alongs of beloved songs from the movies. Tickets (\$10): abqcorolux.org/tickets/.

Children & Youth

United Kids "Catch the Faith" in Many Ways: Eating, Helping, Caring, Worshipping – Together!

United Church offers multiple ways for families to connect with the whole community and also learn to "Love God, Neighbor, and Creation."

- **They lead us through Holy Week and Easter worship**, joining in the Palm Sunday processional, gathering in the shadows of Maundy Thursday, and leading us to the light of Easter morning!
- **Palm Sunday (Mar. 24)**, they're planting pansy pots to adorn the church of Easter.
- **Good Friday morning (Mar. 29)**, kids help with our annual Creation Care morning.
- **And Easter Sunday**, we have an Easter Piñata(s) Party after the 10:00 Easter Celebration!

Family Supper and Game Night Friday, Apr. 5 – 5:30 to 7:30

The Church provides the meal – all you need to bring is your family! Join with other adults and kids over supper followed by ping-pong and cornhole for youth and adults; outdoors games for children; and conversation time. All welcome (including friends and neighbors). **Please sign up at the church or at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com by Wednesday, April 3. Hope to see you!**

Youth Trips

Youth/Adult Border Trip Last Week of May

Plans are in the works for an Intergenerational Border Trip to Arizona/Sonora (Mexico) the week of Memorial Day. All middle and high school youth are invited. If you're interested, please let Talitha know.



LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA – JUNE 23–27

Middle and high school youth from all eight western states converge on California for five days of fun, faith, service, workshops and even a trip to **DISNEYLAND**. United Church will help cover expenses for our youth to join in. Interested? Please contact Talitha.



CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks to:

- Everyone who has helped and is helping to lead us all on the journey of Holy Week to the new life of Easter! (Bulletin preparers, musicians, Sacred Spacers, greeters, readers, fellowship volunteers, etc. etc. etc.)
- **Bob Ansheles and his band of Window Washing Volunteers** for helping us see the light!
- The **Congregational Care Team** for delivering Easter flowers to almost 30 households.
- **Dana Hollifield and Tina Natonabah**, who have joined the Congregational Care Team—and to **John Shaffer**, Chair.
- **Communion Deliverers** who make sure every month that 20 or more households stay connected to United and to God’s love.

Congratulations and Blessings for:

- **Julie Ann Grimm**, starting a new job; **Bradley Ellingboe** on the CD release of his “Star Song,” performed by Albany Pro Musica.
- **Jere Turner**, long-time member who has moved to Arkansas to be closer to family.
- **Diana and Todd Smith**, as they move from Santa Fe.


Healing and Hope for:

- **The family of Mary Noonan (Mitch, Sean, Claire)**, following her death on March 14; the **family of Brett Lindsey**, following his March 5 Memorial Service; the **family of John Bray-Morris (Juli, J.D., Jessica)** following his death and March 22 Memorial Service.
- Persons recovering from surgery and/or hospitalizations and those who care for them (**Nancy Elkjer, Donna Clark, John Johnson, Nancy Porthan, Ben Larzelere, Jim O’Connor**, and others); **Dave Feldt**, recovering from a ski accident.
- Those dealing with continuing health issues (**Judy Laughlin, Janyth Fell, J.D. Wynne**), and others facing health uncertainty.
- Those living with cancer and those who love and care for them (**Greg and Linda Gaertner, Prof. David Daniels, Tim Gauthier, Anna Spalding, Diane Bethune’s brother Jeffery, Jenn and J.D. Wynn’s daughter-in-law Kayla**, 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, Msgr. Jerome Martinez, Diane Johnston’s sister**, 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**, 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 other Palestinian Territories, and 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 Nigeria, Sudan, Ukraine, Central America, 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.


A grateful Thank You to the United Congregational Care Team, Rev. Talitha, and all who offered prayers and wishes for my surgery and recovery! See you in Church! (Pastor Ben Larzelere)

A **memorial service** giving thanks for the life of **Mary Noonan** will be held **Saturday, April 13 at 11:00 am.**

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 April



On Call: **John Shaffer (505) 466-4372**
Paul Vogel (847) 366-0677
Food: **John Shaffer (505) 466-4372**

Outreach

LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR

Outreach Opportunities – Thank you!

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

Loving Our Neighbors in Santa Fe Supporting Santa Fe's Shelters

United Church provides full dinners monthly to Santa Fe Shelters. Lots of volunteer opportunities—making meatloaves at home; delivering food, preparing casseroles at church (“Chop and Grate”). Please contact Pat Roach: proach102@comcast.net or 505-988-7357.

Details for April:

- Lots of meatloaves needed.
- April 19 (Friday, 9:30 am) – Chop and Grate
- April 22 (Monday) – Deliver to Interfaith, Casa Familia, and St. Elizabeth.

Thank You's

Tamar Randall, Development Director of Tree New Mexico, and the Education Team of the Randal Davies Audubon Center send their thanks for the donations from United's Compassionate Christmas Gifts.

Youth/Adult Border Trip

Late May/early June (May 26/27 to 30/31)

Plans are in the works for an Intergenerational Border Trip to Arizona/Sonora (Mexico) the week of Memorial Day (leaving either that Sunday or Monday, returning Thursday or Friday). All middle and high school youth and adults are invited. If you're interested, please let Talitha know.



Thank you for Supporting the Church World Service Kits for Refugees in Gaza and Ukraine.

Many thanks to all who contributed financially and/or helped assemble the hygiene kits for use in Ukraine and Gaza. To date, we received \$1,800 and children, youth and adults assembled 98 kits. We'll do another round soon. Help support the effort by check (memo: CWS kits) or online (unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Thank you!

Building a World Without Nuclear Weapons – An Urgent Imperative

Wed., April 24 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Santa Maria de la Paz Catholic Church

With Santa Maria de la Paz, United is hosting a conversation on nuclear disarmament – religious, philosophical, political, and practical aspects of this complex issue, including suggestions for “Action Steps.” Catholic Archbishop John C. Wester focused his January 2022 Pastoral letter on *Living in the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament*. United community invited to join the discussion at Santa Maria, Wed., April 24. Info: Avril Ekstrand (avrilekstrand@yahoo.com).

Immigration and Refugee Task Force Report

Fatima and Yasser are Syrian refugees who recently received financial assistance from the United Church Immigration Task Force to pay their rent. They express their sincere gratitude for our help to avoid eviction. Yasser has been unable to work due to a work related injury but he hopes to return soon to his job as a semi truck driver.

LOVE GOD, LOVE CREATION!

Santa Fe River Cleanup Saturday, April 27 (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!



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!

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.



Adult Faith Formation

SUNDAY FORUMS THIS SPRING (11:15 after 10:00 worship)

March 24

Seeing the Story: Artists Talk about Their Work, Faith, and Inspiration

Molly Elkind, Weaver, & Sam Elkind, Photographer

March 31

No forum—it's Easter!

Stay for cupcakes and extended fellowship.

April 7

(It's in the works.)

April 14

Get Acquainted with United!

For anyone who'd like more info about the United Church of Santa Fe—who we are, what we believe, what we do, how we're organized, etc., etc. Council members and others join the conversation. It's a great way to get acquainted!

April 21 – Earth Day Sunday

Take a walk around United (outside and inside) to learn how our church has cared for creation since it started!

KSFR: *The Forum*

Monday, April 15 (6:00 pm)

Where locals discuss important issues of the day in a hard hitting but civilized manner. Talitha Arnold is a panelist Monday, April 15. Also available as a podcast.

The Spring (Window) Cleaning project was a great success in March. Thanks to the Helping Hands who made it happen: Frank Cionek, Jim Ekstrand, Margy Maira, Frank Norris, Kris Dorris, Jim Dorris, Barbara McPhee, Kenneth Jacks, Clay Ellis, Jeff Clark, and Dave Feldt. (Bob Ansheles, chair of Property Maintenance)

Groups and Gatherings

Wednesday Women's Study Group

April 3 and 17 – 10:00 am

We discuss Douglas Preston's *Lost City of the Monkey God: a True Story*. All women welcome! (Barbara MacPhee, macphee.b@gmail.com)



Honduran "Lost City" artifact

Pretty Good Guys

April 10 and 24 (10:30 to 12:00)

All men invited to join in "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time," a classic book by Marcus Borg. (2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10:30 to noon). Copies of the book available for purchase at church. All welcome!



Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of Mark
Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom

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). To register or for info: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. All welcome!

Where There's a Will . . .

There's a way to help strengthen your United Church for the future. United's endowment has already insured that our church and its many ministries were able to weather a pandemic and other financial challenges of the last several years. Your including United in your will and estate planning builds on that foundation for the future.

Planning a bequest to United Church in your will is a generous and joyful thing to do. It connects you in a profound way to the spiritual lives of future generations. (And it doesn't cost you anything :-).

To learn more about including the United Church of Santa Fe in your will, please contact a member of the Endowment Initiative Team (Frank Wilbanks, Chair; Caroline Burnett, Bob Ansheles, Sarah Sawtell, Sam Elkind, Joe Jones, Trudy Swint, Ed Barker, Rev. Talitha Arnold). We thank you! And so do future generations of United!



**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 offer the **10:00 am Sunday service in-person** and also **livestreamed 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 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!