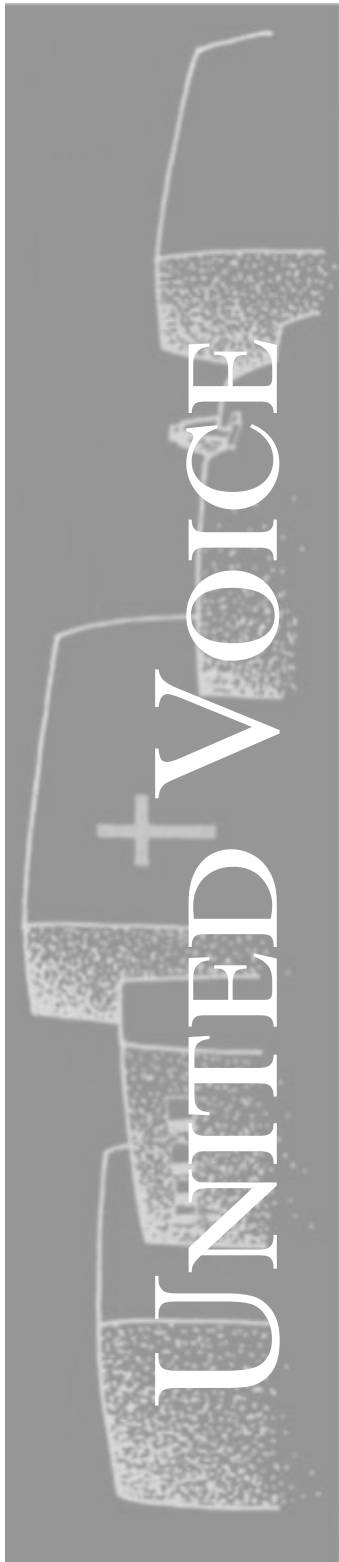




Monthly publication

United Church of Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

November 2025

PRAYERS FOR THE SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

A Prayer for Thanksgiving for Children

Thank you for the lives of the children
in our care and in our prayers.

Thank you for their hope and joy.

Thank you for your guidance in their lives.

Protect their minds, watch over their hearts,
and lead them to great adventures. Amen.

For Food and for Justice

O God bless this food we are about to receive.

Give bread to those who hunger,
and hunger for justice to those of us who have bread.

Nicaraguan Prayer

A Prayer of Thanks for It All

Abide

Forgive me if I forget
with the birdsong and the day's
last glow folding into the hands
of the trees, forgive me the few
syllables of the autumn crickets,
the year's last firefly winking
like a penny in the shoulder's weeds,
if I forget the hour, if I forget
the day as the evening star
pours out its whiskey over the gravel
and asphalt I've walked
for years alone, if I startle
when you put your hand in mine,
if I wonder how long your light
has taken to reach me here.

(The poet Jake Adam York died of a stroke in 2012, when he was only 40. His prayer poem calls to mind the hymn "Abide With Me," a prayer for constancy: "In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.")

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**UNITED CHURCH
OF SANTA FE**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Family Ministry Director

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Pianist

André García-Nuthmann
Choir Director

Elijah Marquez
Media Director/Videographer

Lin Raymond
Office Administrator

Maria Navarette
Children's Ministry Assistant

Destiny Muñoz
Children's Ministry 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

Dear Friends,

Before starting this letter for November's *United Voice*, I had to finish two Lenten reflections for the United Church of Christ's spring devotional. I'm a firm believer that Christmas decorations don't go up until after Thanksgiving, so focusing on Lent even before Halloween was a spiritual stretch.

But it was also a gift. There is no season in the Christian calendar that calls us to the depths and heights of the Christian faith more than Lent. And there is no time more than now when we've needed, in the words of May Sarton, to "return to Lent's deep sources."

As our national leadership descends into greater vengeance and violence, we need Lent's vision of *God's* leadership and how God has chosen to work in this world. The 4th chapter of the "Letter to the Hebrews" (the scripture for March 24, 2026) is one such source. Written to 1st century Christian communities, the author/preacher reminded them who they were following—and why—even in their fearsome and uncertain time:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are . . . Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Perhaps because I was writing the day after the "No Kings" march, I began to wonder what the "throne of grace" might look like. Both the author and his communities would have known Roman thrones. During the Republic, the consuls' thrones were carved wooden padded seats. Under the Empire, thrones got more elaborate. In Nero's "Golden Palace," wood gave way to ivory and bronze (matching Nero's colossal gilded statue). Subsequent emperors followed suit.

In addition, simple laurel wreaths were replaced by crowns. Emperor Domitian (81-96 C.E.) ruled the Roman Senate wearing a jewel-encrusted golden diadem. On other occasions, he and his minions wore crowns bearing his effigy among effigies of the gods.

I doubt that's what the early Christian preacher imagined for the occupant of the "throne of grace." Seated on such a throne was the One whose crown wasn't made of gold, but of thorns. The One whose first throne had been a wooden manger to cradle a child; then a wooden table, laden with bread and wine; and finally, a wooden cross, holding a human life lived for others.

On the throne of grace was the great high priest who took on human life and could "sympathize with our weaknesses." Therefore, the author called his communities to "approach the throne of grace with boldness, [to] receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

A crown of thorns, not of jewels. A throne of grace, not of gold. Mercy in our time of need. As a Lenten hymn sings, "What language can we borrow," what words beyond "thank you" do we have for such mercy and grace?

Who knew that the heart of Lent could also be found in this season of Thanksgiving?

Blessings,



Worship in November



LISTEN FOR THE CALL

“Write the Vision.” “Build the World.” “Create Rejoicing.” “Find the Way to Peace.” Through the first four Sundays of November, the Hebrew prophets are our guides for discerning what it means to be a person of faith in our time—which is not unlike their times. It’s a season to give thanks for their witness and our call to faith and commitment. After Thanksgiving, we start a new year as we start Advent’s journey to new life.

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

Write the Vision

All Saints Sunday – November 2

The book of Habakkuk opens with a dialogue between the prophet and God (1:1-4, 2:1-4). Despairing of the evil and violence all around him, he asks God when things will change, when God will come to help the people. In response, God tells Habakkuk to climb up the ramparts and hold a sign with God’s vision for the world. It must have seemed a fool’s errand to the prophet, as it may for us, too. But “writing the vision” is what we’re called to do. On All Saints Sunday, we remember those who had the courage to hold such visions. (Daylight Saving Time ends. Please set your clocks back one hour Saturday evening.)

Build the World

November 9

Haggai was even more of a minor prophet than Habakkuk, but he dreamed big and he called his people to do the same (2:1-9). Faced with the rebuilding of his devastated city and temple, he proclaimed God’s word “Take courage, all you leaders, all you priests, all you people of the land. Work, for I am with you. Fear not.” Good words for our time, as a church and as a nation.

Create a Rejoicing

Stewardship Sunday – November 16

“Pay attention to the verbs,” a Biblical scholar advised. “That’s where the action is.” The prophet Isaiah is full of verbs, especially in chapter 65 (17-25). “Behold,” says God, “I am *doing* a new thing. I will *rejoice and delight*. I will *listen and answer*.” And you (aka us), Isaiah continues, “will *build and plant*, and none shall destroy.” Sounds like a plan, yes?

Guide Our Feet

Thank-Singing Sunday – November 23

An old man named Zechariah sings to his infant son John. As he looks into the child’s eyes, he sees hope and possibility, God’s assurance that life will go on. We sing such hope this Thanks-singing service.

Who Are We Waiting For?

Advent Starts

The color changes to purple and the music to a minor key as we begin to prepare for the coming of Christ. But who is this Christ? Who or what are we waiting for?

The One Who Comes . . . Where We Least Expect

First Sunday of Advent – November 30

Advent doesn’t begin with Luke’s nativity story but with the Gospel’s apocalyptic vision of the “Son of Man” coming in glory. What an odd place to start—but an appropriate one in our time of Christian nationalism with its allegiance to a conquering, militarized Christ. Luke ends his Gospel with Christ in glory, but he begins it with a child born in poverty. So what constitutes true glory?



Music Notes

Michelle Schumann: Director of Music

Children & Youth

Dana Bender: Family Ministries Director

As United's new Director of Music, I'm very pleased to let you know all that is going on in our vibrant music ministry this month! It has been a little over a year since I first started playing piano at United and I've been so impressed with the incredible pace of our musical endeavors. I'm also very happy to let you know that Choir Director André García-Nuthmann and I are busy planning United's future music offerings, and look forward to experiencing the coming seasons together.

Please know that I'm always interested in your thoughts about our music ministry. Are there pieces you love and that you'd like to hear? Are you interested in being involved as a singer or instrumentalist, but haven't yet gotten involved? I invite you to reach out to me anytime! (unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com)

November is a great musical month as we celebrate All Saint's Day (one of my favorite Sundays, Nov. 2) and head into Thanksgiving. United's annual "Thanks-Singing" Sunday is November 23, when we revel in worshipping through song. Expect some of your favorite hymns and a special opportunity to integrate the choir into the congregation!

Then Advent starts the last Sunday of November!

Musically yours,
Michelle



Kids United in November

Each week we'll learn a few songs in preparation for singing in the Thanks-Singing service on the 23rd!

- Nov. 2 "Love God" – Basic Bible Tutorial
- Nov. 9 "Love Neighbor" – How to give back as the weather gets colder
- Nov. 16 "Love Creation" – Bird feeder craft
- Nov. 23 Thanks-Singing! – Kids in the service

Pre-Initiates and Confirmation in November

11:15-12:30 in the Youth Room

- Nov. 2 "A Mad Dash through the Good Book"
- Nov. 9 "Prayer and Practice"
- Nov. 16 "The Nicene Creed"
- Nov. 23 Thanks-Singing!

...and **NOVEMBER 30th**
is the first Sunday in Advent!!!
More to come!!

We invite you to invite friends!
Let others find out what you've found
with United Church!

Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com)

BE THE ENERGY! **Campaign for United 2026**

All Church Brunch After Each Service – Sunday, Nov. 16

"In the fullness of time," proclaimed the prophet Isaiah, "God will make a feast on the holy mountain." A feast of good things. A feast for all people.

We're not going up to the mountains and it may not be a full feast but United is having a great **"BE the Energy Brunch"** on Sunday, November 16—and you're invited!

Eating together is energizing—and a great way to get acquainted, build community, and share the spirit of a vibrant and committed faith community—i.e., the United Church of Santa Fe!

We have lots to celebrate in our life and ministry together. And like every organization, family, or community, we also have some challenges. The best way to meet those challenges is together.

So along with sharing good food and great fellowship on November 16, we'll be invited to make our financial pledges for the United Church in 2026.

Your pledge makes lots of things possible. Pastoral care. Faith formation for children, youth, adults. Great music for all ages. Care for our neighbors, near and far, and for creation. Making sure the lights stay on and the building's maintained.

All our pledges together help make real God's passionate love for this world.

What a great thing to share and celebrate. We know economic times are tough, and lives are busy and complicated. We also know we're stronger together!

When your Table Host calls to invite you to brunch on November 16, say yes! And when you pray about your pledge for United's ministry and future, be open to God's ever-present energy and all-inclusive Spirit!





CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers for Wisdom, Courage, and Compassion. . .

- For ourselves and the leaders of our nation and all nations.

Prayers of Thanks for:

- **The Youth Initiate Confirmand Mentors (Bruce Turnquist, John and Laura Johnson, Melanie Lohman, and Sheree Whitney) and Family Minister Dana Bender**, for the start-up of our Youth Initiation/Confirmation program.
- **The Youth and Adult Liturgists; Children's Ministry Assistants (Maria Navarette, Destiny Muñoz); Sanctuary Choir led by André García-Nuthmann and Director of Music Michelle Schumann; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez and volunteers Frank Wilbanks, Sam Elkind, Joe Jones; Discipleship Chair Diane Darby and the Greeters; Office Administrator Lin Raymond; the Sacred Space Team and all other volunteers whose leadership and commitment help create such great Sunday mornings at United each week. It takes a whole church to make Sunday happen!!**
- **The Stewardship/Finance Ministry and Parish Life Ministry Teams**, organizing this fall's Stewardship work and especially the Sunday, November 16, "Burrito Brunch" for the whole church.

Prayers for New Life for:

- **Youth Initiates/Confirmands** (Sasha Smucker, Weston Puglisi, Bailey Gordon, Jack Smucker, Bonnie Bannerman) and Pre-Initiates Leo Joyce Brown, Althea Pak, and Steven Zappe as they continue or start their journey to adulthood.

Healing and Hope for:

- **Michael Chamberlain**, following the death of his wife Rev. Kathleen Jimenez (prayers also for their extended family); **Dave and Peggy Feldt** and their family, as they mourn the loss of Dave's mother Marge in Kansas; **Anita Skeen**, following her father's death.
- **Nyla Rasmussen**, recovering from a broken femur and clavicle; **Jennifer Graves**, recovering from a broken foot; **Pauline Rindone's daughter in Alaska**, recovering from back surgery; **Phil Laughlin's daughter Beth**, following surgery in Arizona; **Iana Mason**, recovering from shoulder replacement in Arizona.
- Persons dealing with cancer: **Connie Maldegen, Greg Gaertner, Anna Spalding, Diane Bethune's brother Jeffery**.
- Persons with ongoing health issues and those who love for them (**Mary Deane Lynn, Ken Bordner, Zulema Zambrano and Larry Thorpe's daughter, Helen Natonabah McCabe, Ray and Nancy Lutz, Eli Jimenez, Ann Noss (Marty Wilder's mother), Kay Burdette's grandson Max**, and others).
- Those with **memory loss** and all who care for them (**Royce and Carolyn Stewart, Roger Knapp and Linda Knapp** at Montecito, **Christine and Paul Vogel, JoAnn Bolleter's mother**); persons living with Parkinson's or other neurological conditions (**Msgr. Jerome Martinez**, and others); those with chronic illness (**Brooke Roberts, Cynde Christie, Jan McGough**).
- 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.)
- Political leaders and their families who are living with the threat of violence; school children and educators living in the constant shadow of gun violence, U.S. cities and immigrant families living in the shadow of raids and occupation.
- All persons, families, hospitals, and food programs impacted by the cuts in Medicaid, SNAP, and other national and international safety net programs.
- Persons who are imprisoned and those who love them.
- A just and lasting peace between the people of Israel, Gaza and the other Palestinian Territories.
- Continued prayers for Ukraine, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, 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.

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 November

On Call: Cindi Duncan (630) 504-4442
Food: June Yoder (505) 503-0555

Outreach

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 GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR!



Compassionate Christmas Gifts Market Starts Sunday, Nov. 30 through Dec. 21

In the true spirit of Christmas, give United's *Compassionate Christmas Gifts* that give hope, care, and joy all around the world. The market is after both the 8:30 and 10:00 services, starting Nov. 30 through Dec. 21. Gifts include blankets for refugees, children's "comfort backpacks," gift cards for families in need, legal services for immigrants, and even more. Watch for more info soon!

United's Shelter Supper Ministries Offer Food and Care

United provides supper (meatloaf, veggie casserole, salad, dessert) monthly to St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters. Want to help? Come to "Chop and Grate" Friday, November 20 (9:30 am), or deliver food to shelters that afternoon or make meatloaf at home. Contact Pat Roach (proach102@comcast.net) for info. Your financial support also helps! By check (memo: shelter meals), online at unitedchurchofsanta.org (click "Donate Now"), or scan the QR code. Thank you!



Impact of Federal Budget Cuts

Earth Care New Mexico lost a \$500,000 EPA grant to monitor air quality and health assessments for Santa Fe's south-side, a largely immigrant community. New Mexico has also been hard hit on many other fronts by the current administration's freeze on federal funding. Our state would also be impacted by the failure to extend Medicare and Obamacare. In early October Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed a special session emergency relief package. Its four bills provide \$162 million to protect affordable health care, access to care, and food assistance to the most vulnerable among us—at least for a while.



United at the No Kings Rally, Oct. 18, 2025

LOVE GOD, LOVE CREATION!

Compost Collection It's a Miracle!

Reunity Resources turns food waste, meat scraps, garden clippings, etc. into life-giving compost. Pick up compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and put in green bin in back of church. Also . . . please use the compost bins at church for paper plates, cups, napkins. 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: track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours, then donate thru United to our partners *Tree New Mexico* and *NM Interfaith Power & Light*. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.



Adult Faith Formation

Summer Sunday Forums – 11:15 Sundays
Joan Snider, Adult Faith Formation Chair

Welcome United's Newest Members
November 2

Get acquainted with United members who joined the last 3 years. It's a chance to learn what brought them to United and to share your experiences and hopes for our church as we grow together. All welcome!



What Are You Called To?
Ministry Fair – November 9

Whether it's caring for members and friends or for the building or for the wider community and world, United Church runs on volunteers. It's a great day to find out from our Ministry Teams how you can get engaged with these important ministries!



All Church Brunch(es)
(after both services)
November 16

Food, fellowship, fun, new friends – that's all part of the All Church Brunch this Stewardship Sunday. We'll also have special activities for children and youth. Plan to join in!



When the Holidays Are Different
November 23

For all their joy, holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas can be challenging, especially if one has experienced a death, divorce, or other loss. They can be equally challenging if we know we can't meet our children's or other's expectations. Join in this discussion and get resources for ways to deal with such challenges.

Study Groups

It's Not Too Late to Join!
For Such a Time as This:
An Emergency Devotional

Wednesdays (5:30 - 6:45 pm) through Nov. 19
Engage this challenging, comforting, and accessible book with meditations on scripture, reflections on historical precedents, and portraits of resisters—to strengthen our own Christian response to the present moment. Sign up in Community Room. Books for purchase in the Community Room. Joan Snider (joan.snider@gmail.com), Talitha Arnold (unitedchurch.talitha@gmail.com)

Wednesday Women's Study Group
November 5 and 19 (10:00 am)

We read Hampton Sides' *Ghost Soldiers: The Epic Account of World War II's Greatest Rescue Mission*. All welcome! Info: Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, MomMorton@gmail.com) or Jenn Wynne (817-219-0707; home@wynnes.us)

"Can We Trust the Bible?"
Pretty Good Guys

Wednesday, Nov. 12 (10:30 to 12:00)

With an essay by Dr. Harry Attridge, former Dean of Yale Divinity School and renowned scholar of Christian scripture and early history, we'll engage the challenging question of "Can We Trust the Bible?" All men welcome. Copies of the essay available in the Community Room.

The Book of Revelation—Really??
Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom

Revelation is one weird book. It also speaks to our time. Join others from around the country to unpack its meaning and wisdom. All welcome! Info/register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.



Youth Initiates at their Retreat in Glorieta in September

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
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Mailing Date — October 24, 2025

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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). We also offer an **8:30 am Contemplative Communion Service**. 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!