



Monthly publication  
United Church of Santa Fe  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
  
August 2024

# August Prayers

## As Summer Draws to a Close . . .

Help us, Lord,  
To revel in the waning days of summer.  
Let us still soak up the long days and warm sun.  
Guide our feet to walk on mountain trails and winding paths.  
Open our eyes to blue skies and our ears to the singing of your birds.  
As summer changes into fall,  
    may our breathing still be easy and our hearts open.  
Help us, God, to be present to all that is  
    so we might best see all that might be.

## From the Lakota Sacred Tradition

O our Father, the Sky, hear us and make us strong.  
    **Lord, teach us and show us the way.**  
O our Mother, the Earth, hear us and give us support.  
    **Lord, teach us and show us the way.**  
O Spirit of the East, send us your Wisdom.  
    **Lord, teach us and show us the way.**  
O Spirit of the South, may we tread your path of life.  
    **Lord, teach us and show us the way.**  
O Spirit of the West, may we always be ready for the long journey.  
    **Lord, teach us and show us the way.**  
O Spirit of the North, purify us with your cleansing winds.  
    **Lord, teach us and show us the way.**

## For Students and Teachers Going Back to School . . .

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;  
    grace to risk something big for something good;  
grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth  
    and too small for anything but love.  
So, may God take your minds and think through them;  
    may God take your lips and speak through them;  
    may God take your hearts and set them on fire.  
Go with our blessing. Amen

Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Yale University Chaplain (1958 – 1975)  
Benediction for Annual Opening Assembly

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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

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Dear Friends,

My letter for the August newsletter was ready to send last Saturday morning. It was a good reflection, but after the candidate rally in Pennsylvania that evening, I needed to write a new one. I ask us to join with others in our prayers for Donald Trump and his family for a speedy recovery, both physically and emotionally, from his injury. I ask also for prayers for the families and loved ones of the people who died, both the rally participant and the shooter.

As I asked in yesterday's sermon, may we also pray for our country to heed God's command to "beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, and study war no more." Since swords and spears aren't the weapons of choice these days and few of us are farmers, perhaps we can update the scriptural command to "we shall beat our AK-57's into gardening tools and our bump stocks, pistols, and bolt guns into musical instruments and playground equipment."

I also know that last Friday's events and the discourse that's followed add to the ongoing concern and fear that mark this election season. Fear and even dread are understandable in this time, but neither are particularly helpful. They lead to paralysis, apathy, and despair—all of which undercuts the courage and strength we—and our country—need.

Our faith and our faith practices provide deep resources for this time. Here are a few:

- When you feel overcome by fear or despair, do what we do every Sunday morning – **breathe in God's gifts**. Breathe in the Spirit of God's peace. Breathe in the Spirit of God's hope. Breathe in the Spirit of God's love, steadfast love that will not let us go and will not let us down. Whether it's in the middle of your day or the middle of the night, breathe in God's peace, hope, love, strength, courage, or whatever else you need.
- **Join in worship** – either Sundays at 8:30 when we gather outdoors to be held in the beauty of God's creation and fed by God's bread of life and cup of hope or Sundays at 10:00 in the Sanctuary, a place that by definition is both safe and sacred. Scientific research shows the impact of community on mental and emotional health. When we come together, breathe together, sing together, pray together—and connect to the stories and wisdom of those who have gone before through equally uncertain and frightening times—we are strengthened. It's as simple as showing up on a Sunday morning.
- **Connect to creation**. United offers a beautiful reflection trail, filled with summer flowers, and a shady and peaceful place by the rock fountain. Stop by sometime and sit a while.
- **Act**. Whether it's making meatloaves or "chopping and grating" for United's monthly shelter meals, writing letters to the editor (and identifying yourself as a Christian), caring for immigrants and refugees, or anything else that fulfills God's command to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God," just do it. Not only do they make a difference for others, our actions help us break out of paralysis and fear.

Beloved friends, I know we live in deeply and troubling times. But I know even more that we are rooted in a faith that gives us what we need in such times – and in the steadfast love of God that will not let us go and will not let us down. May we trust the One who is steadfast.

Blessings,



# Worship in August

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## *May the Source Be with You*

Power and strength are constant themes throughout both Jewish and Christian scriptures. That's not surprising. Whether as the Hebrew people wandering and hungry in the wilderness or Elijah the prophet fleeing paranoid King Ahab and Queen Jezebel or the early Christians living under Rome's calculated oppression, Biblical characters and communities often found themselves up against forces far stronger than they were.

Yet they prevailed. As summer draws to a close and we look to a challenging fall—nationally and perhaps personally—may their experience of true power and true strength deepen our understanding of the Source of such power and strength. May we, like the people and communities of the Bible, face the future with the confidence and wisdom we need.

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

## *Strength for the Body, Power for the Soul* **August 4**

There are a lot of hungry people in the Bible. Within weeks after being freed from Pharaoh, the Israelites long for the fleshpots of Egypt. (Exodus 16:2-18) The day after the miraculous feast of bread and fish, the crowd following Jesus want a *real* sign of his power. (John 6:24-34) Oy vey, as they say. In both instances, God provides food for both bodies and souls—and calls us to do the same. Good stories for the Sunday of the Congregational Annual Meeting.

## *Stronger Together* **August 11**

On the run from Ahab and Jezebel, the exhausted Elijah asks God to end his life. Instead God sends an angel, twice, to give him bread, water, and the reminder he wasn't alone. On the strength of that encounter and that food, the prophet kept going. (I Kings 19:1-9) Similarly, the author of the Letter to the Ephesians reminds the early Christian community that God will strengthen their "inner being with power through the Spirit." (Ephesians 3:14-21). We're stronger when we're connected—to one another and the Source of true power.



## *The Power of Wisdom* **August 18**

The young King Solomon didn't pray for glory and military might. He knew that power came from knowing what he didn't know, so he "turned to a wisdom surpassing (his) own." (I Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14). We would be wise to do so, too. Indian Market Sunday also reminds us to learn deeply from the wisdom of sacred traditions beyond our own.

## *Going from Strength to Strength* **August 25**

"Blessed are those who strength is in you," sang the composer of Psalm 84, "in whose heart are the highways to Zion." The Psalmist wasn't naïve about the challenges of life's journey. He or she compares it to the "valley of Baca," an unknown arid and barren place. But, Psalm 84 assures us, going with God makes it "a place of springs." With God, we can "go from strength to strength." A great word as we begin a new season!

# Music

Our special summer music offerings in the 10:00 service continue! On August 4, we welcome United Choral Scholar Steve Kerchoff, along with Youth Violinist Luke Rand and Cellist Jaden Rand for special music throughout the service. August 11 is our last “Summer Drop-In Choir”—come at 9:00 to rehearse the anthem and then sing in the 10:00 service. On August 18, we welcome Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Shannon Keegan, mezzo, as guest soloist, and on August 25, Choral Scholar Rebecca Brunette also blesses us with a solo. Through the summer, Choral Scholar Yasmeen Lookman leads the hymn singing in the 10:00 services.

Coming up this fall, save the date of **Reformation Sunday (Oct. 27)** for a special service featuring **J.S. Bach’s “Reformation Cantata” (#80)**. The weekend of Nov. 9-10, we welcome back composer/pianist/singer **Ken Medema** for a Saturday concert and Sunday worship. And looking farther ahead, here are some special events in 2025:

- **FebFest 2025 (Feb. 8-9)**. We welcome Composer/Conductor Brandon Boyd for our annual celebration of African American music (jointly hosted with Coro Lux).
- **New Mexico premiere of Ellingboe’s “A Place Called Home” at the Lensic (Saturday, April 12)**. A dramatic cantata on care for the earth that premiered in Carnegie Hall in April of 2023. The weekend’s events also involve the participation of the piece’s librettist, Charles Anthony Silvestri, in Sunday worship, including his creation of a new poem. The United Church is a co-sponsor and underwriting this special event.

Bradley Ellingboe  
Director of Music



Plan to drop in—Sunday, August 11

For your protection, please do not leave valuables visible in your car. Please remember to always lock your car when attending services or events at United. Thank you!

# Children & Youth

## New Children’s “Pray-Ground” in Sanctuary

Greetings from the Children and Youth Ministry volunteers! We are very excited to have a new children’s area set up in the library (off the Sanctuary). Special thanks to Emily Elkind for consulting on this project. Come check it out when you have a chance.

On Sundays, when we have volunteers available, we will continue to have programming for children in the education rooms. (The Pray-Ground is also a great space for children who don’t want to lose sight of their parents during worship :-).

## Love Kids? Love Fun?

So volunteer one Sunday this summer to help with Children’s Ministry! We’ll provide the plans—you just need to sign up and show up. Let Karen Wilbanks (469-438-6115) or Talitha Arnold know you can help! Sign up in the Community Room.



## All Church Family Fun Night (and supper)

On **Friday, August 16** we host a family night with food, water balloons, and other fun. All ages welcome! Sign up by email ([unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)) or in the Community Room.



We’ll also kick off a **new and improved Prayer Child program**. One of the goals of the Children and Youth Ministry Team is more active intergenerational activities. In a world where families often do not live near extended family, we want to fill in the gaps with church family. Remember, “Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.” Neil Postman.

Thank you!

Karen Wilbanks, Children and Youth Team Chair





# CARE AND CONCERN

## PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



### Prayers of Thanks for:

- Property and Maintenance Chair **Bob Ansheles** for overseeing the lower parking lot upgrade.
- **Pam Hyde**, for organizing United's entry in the Pride Parade—and for everyone who marched!
- **The Pretty Good Guys** for a pretty great Pancake Breakfast that raised over \$600 for Ruidoso and Las Vegas flood and fire relief.

### Prayers for New Life for:

- **Gail Mattson**, as she moves to California to be closer to her siblings following a stroke (and prayers for her cousin **Diane Darby**, who has been Gail's "point person" for the last several months in Santa Fe).
- **Destiny Muñoz, Ailey and Luci Cassidy-Jones, Makayla Darby** as they all head for college in the coming weeks.
- **Tina and Stephanie Hubley**, who celebrated Tina's baptism on July 7 at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Madison, Connecticut (Stephanie's home church).

### Healing and Hope for:

- **Cindi and Don Duncan**, following the death of Cindi's father in June; **Mary Deane Lynn**, whose sister died recently; **Doug Hargrove**, following the death of his partner of 60+ years Woody Woodson in Palm Springs.
- Persons recovering from recent hospitalizations and those who care for them: **Judy and Phil Laughlin**, as she recovers from a broken pelvis; **Joe Neidhardt and Mary Hasbah Roessel**, as Joe starts kidney dialysis; **Rev. Kathleen Jimenez and her husband Michael Chamberlain**, as she receives rehab after a stroke; **Janice Arlen**, recovering from back surgery; **Paula Rindone's** daughter Renee, recovering from sepsis; **Jerry Elliott**, recovering after a recent hospitalization in Palm Springs.
- 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 (**Greg and Linda Gaertner, Ron Evenson, Prof. David Daniels, Tim Gautchier, 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 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 Kenya, 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.

#### 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](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com))



#### Congregational Care for August



**On Call:** Dusty Pruitt (302) 393-3265  
**Food:** Dana Hollifield (303) 242-9681

# Outreach

## LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR, LOVE CREATION

*Outreach Opportunities – Thank you!*

Go online to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://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](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Thank you!

### *Children's Garden Vegetables for Food Depot, too!*

All the produce from the Children's Garden this summer goes to the Food Depot to provide fresh vegetables in the food bags. If you'd like to help with weekly weeding or harvesting, please sign up at church. Also, as the summer progresses, if you have extra squash, etc. from your own garden, bring it to the church and we'll get it to the Food Depot!



### 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, August 23 (9:30 am) or deliver food to shelters Monday, Aug. 26 or make meatloaf at home. Interested? Please contact Pat Roach ([proach102@comcast.net](mailto:proach102@comcast.net)). You can also support this ministry with check or online donations (memo: shelter meals). Thank 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](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care).

### It's Time to Share

#### One Great Hour of Sharing

Relief for persons impacted by wildfires, tornadoes and hurricanes. Long-development assistance to provide clean water. Support for refugees and people at our own borders. Throughout the U.S. and around the world, our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference. This summer, United invites your support for the ecumenical effort that impacts lives and addresses issues of poverty and access to education. Your gift can also be designated specifically for particular emergencies (e.g., earthquake relief, long-term development, or emergency needs for refugees on the U.S./Mexico border). Donate online at [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org), or send a check to the church (memo: OGHS). Thank you!

#### 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. In June, United sent a mid-year check for \$3,000.

#### 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.

#### Help Our Fellowship Time Be Eco-friendly

Please join in the time for fellowship, coffee, and snacks after the Sunday services. When you're done, please put used cups and napkins in the compost bin in the Community Room. They'll be turned into great compost, thanks to Reunity Resources!



# Adult Faith Formation

## 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the United Church of Santa Fe In-person and Live-streamed Sunday, August 4 at 11:15 am

Join in—in person or live-stream—United’s 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, after the 10:00 service. We’ll give thanks for our life and ministry, recognize outgoing Council members, elect the new Council, and look to the future. The Annual Report will be available by Sunday, July 28.

## Summer Sunday Forums – 11:15 Sundays

August 11

### *Christus St. Vincent President & CEO Lillian Montoya Vice President for Community Kathy Armijo Etre*

Continuing our Sunday Forum series, “What’s Up? What’s Ahead: Santa Fe Today and Tomorrow,” we welcome two leaders of Christus St. Vincent Hospital, Lillian Montoya and Kathy Armijo Etre for their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities ahead for the hospital and Santa Fe health care.



August 18

### *United’s Sacred Native American Art*

On Indian Market Sunday, take time between the services or after the 10:00 service to see sacred art from Pueblo, Navajo/Diné, Apache, and many other Native American traditions.

August 25—TBD

## Thank you from the Sahuarita Samaritans

June 6, 2024  
Dear Friends,  
Thank you for your \$1000 gift to help our desert aid work. The situation currently is especially serious and your support makes a great difference to enable us to maintain a presence in the borderlands.  
Sincerely,  
JV-Sahuarita Samaritans

## Groups and Gatherings

### Pretty Good Guys

August 14 and 28 (10:30 to Noon)

Pretty Good Guys are finishing up “Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time,” a classic book by Marcus Borg. (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 10:30 to noon) Copies of book available for purchase at church. All men invited to join in!

### Wednesday Women’s Study Group

Takes a Summer Break

(but they start in September  
with quite a reading list!)

The group doesn’t officially meet until September (on the first and third Wednesdays of each month), but here’s next year’s reading list:

- *Making of Biblical Womanhood* (Beth Barr)
- *Lost Birds* (Anne Hillerman)
- *The Women* (Kristen Hannah)
- *After Annie* (Anna Quindlen)
- *House Made of Dawn* (N. Scott Momaday)
- *The Personal Librarian* (Benedict & Murphy)
- *The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty*
- *Wild Girls* (Tiya Miles)

You’re invited to join in. Please contact Cheryl Morton ([mommorton@gmail.com](mailto:mommorton@gmail.com), 515-240-4523) or Jenn Wynn ([home@wynnes.us](mailto:home@wynnes.us), 817-219-0707) for more info.



### Award-winning Author Anne Hillerman

Wednesday, September 18 – 10:00 am

Wednesday Women’s Study Group

Invites YOU to join in!

The 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 Wednesday, Sept. 18 and the Study Group invites the United community to join in the conversation and book signing. All welcome!

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A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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*Mailing Date — July 16, 2024*

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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](http://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](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com), go to our website. Thank you!