

ADVENT PRAYERS FOR A SEASON OF PREPARATION

Light looked down and beheld Darkness,
Thither will I go, said Light.
Peace looked down and beheld War,
Thither will I go, said Peace.
Love looked down and beheld Hatred,
Thither will I go, said Love.
So came Light and shone;
So came Peace and gave rest;
So came Love and brought Life.
And the Word was made Flesh and
Dwelt among us.

Laurence Housman

*That our Earth Mother may wrap herself
In a fourfold robe of white meal;
That she may be covered with frost flowers;
That yonder on all the mossy mountains,
The forests may huddle together with the cold;
That their arms may be broken by the snow,
In order that the land may be thus,
I have made my prayer sticks into living beings.*

Zuni Prayer

May you keep your eye on the Star within you
and trust this luminescent Presence to guide and direct you every day.
May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart
and visit the One who offers you peace.
May you bring this peace into our world.

Joyce Rupp

*Stir up your power and come, O Lord.
Come with your visions of peace and of plowshares.
Come with your hope for our world.
Come with your joy in our wilderness.*

*Stir up your power and come, O Lord.
Come with your love for all people.
Come with your light that overcomes our shadows.
Come with your courage that we might be open to your coming.*

Talitha Arnold

A Prayer for Children

As Mary and Joseph cared for Jesus,
may (*child's name*) know your love and our care.
As we prepare for Christmas,
may s/he be blessed with the true meaning of this season:
light in the darkness and your love in this world. Amen.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	2	Youth Ministry	7
Worship	3	Adult Faith Formation	8
Music Notes	4	Announcements and Events	9
Care and Concern	5	Outreach and Involvement	10
Children's Ministry	6	Calendar	11

Monthly publication

United Church of Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

December 2022

**UNITED CHURCH
OF SANTA FE**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Caleb Omolo
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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,

There is no season of the church year more at odds with our culture than the four weeks of Advent that lead to the birth of the Christ Child. Since Halloween, the world has been adorned with Christmas ornaments, Christmas lights and Christmas trees, all draped in red, green, and gold. Ads and TV specials would have us believe that Christmas is all about giving (or receiving) the perfect gift, having the perfect house, cooking the perfect dinner.

But when you come into United in Advent, you'll see purple—the color of royalty, penance, and transformation—not red or green. The altar is spare, because Advent is a time to make room for new life. The songs aren't "Frosty the Snowman" or even "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Instead, we sing hymns of hope—and waiting—"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus."

Most importantly, the stories we hear in Advent are about life being disrupted, messy, and far from perfect. Isaiah's prophecies to a people sitting in darkness or walking through the desert. Mary's troubling visit from an angel. Joseph's turmoil over the right thing to do. If such accounts sound like ones you or I could tell about our lives, it's because Advent's stories aren't Hallmark-happily-ever-after tales. They're human stories, just like ours. The stories that lead us to Christmas don't come from Amazon ads. They come from the heart of God.

I hope you'll take time this year to engage the stories of Advent, and with them, the music, colors, and hope of these weeks that lead to Christmas. Like Christmastide, the four weeks of Advent are a season filled with possibility. The wonderful author Frederick Buechner wrote of Advent that it "means 'coming'. . . and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion." Not flying saucers or a close encounter of the third kind, he wrote, "but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about."

"What is coming upon the world is the Light of the World," he continued. "It is Christ. That is the comfort of it. The challenge of it is that it has not come yet. Only the hope for it has come, only the longing for it."

Yes, the colors, music, and stories that lead us to Christmas differ from how the world would guide us. The words for the coming weeks are different, too. Not shop, buy, spend, fret, but wait, search, long—and most of all, hope—for God's "invasion of holiness." God's Light.

E'en so, quickly come, Child Jesus.

Blessings,



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P.S. To share some personal news: Once every two years Yale Divinity School invites a pastor serving a local congregation to be the "Hoskins Fellow" to spend time on campus offering various presentations, engaging with students, preaching in Chapel, etc., with a focus on creative and effective ministry. I've been asked to be that "Fellow" this February, focused primarily on United's "Desert Faith" identity and environmental ministry. Thank you for being a congregation that makes such ministry possible!

Worship in December

Searching for God

Advent Worship starts November 27

“Wait” is traditionally the watchword for Advent, the four weeks leading to Christmas. This year, it’s the word “search.” Whether from the Prophet Isaiah (800 years before the birth of Jesus), from the Psalms, or from Mary and Joseph, the Advent scriptures all come from people who weren’t just waiting but were *searching*—searching for light in the darkness, for wisdom in the midst of chaos, for beauty and joy in a time of hardship. Most of all, searching for new life in this old world.

Join Advent’s journey to Christmas—and invite a friend to join you, too. It’s one of the best Christmas gifts you can offer.

Searching for Light

1st Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27

“Let us go up to the house of the Lord,” the Prophet Isaiah called to his people. “Let us walk in the light of the Lord.” (Isaiah 2:1-5) For the Prophet, the first step in their search for that light was to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. What is ours?



Searching for Wisdom

2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 4

In a time of chaos and fear, Isaiah promised his people that God would raise up a servant who was blessed with the “spirit of the Lord, the spirit of wisdom and understanding.” (Isaiah 11) The servant-leader One who would rule with righteousness for the poor and equity for the meek. Three thousand years later, we seek for such wisdom and understanding in our leaders—and in ourselves.

Surprised by the Search

Joyous Sunday of Advent, Dec. 11

To a people living in a desert time and a place of exile, Isaiah proclaimed “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad. The desert shall rejoice and blossom.” (Isaiah 35) Nothing in the preceding chapters gives any hint about this promise. Neither the people nor their situation has changed. The prophet’s proclamation of beauty and joy comes out of the blue. Sometimes joy is like that.

Searching for New Life

A Service of Lessons and Carols – 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 18

Whether in Hebrew scripture or Christian gospel, the journey of faith is the search for new life, even in the face of disappointment and death. To the Israelites in exile, Isaiah promised “a young woman is with child.” (Isaiah 7:10-16) When Joseph was confused by an unusual turn of events right before his wedding, an angel assured him, “Do not be afraid. God is with you, with Mary, and with the child, Emmanuel.” (Matthew 1:18-25) And when Mary received the same angelic promise of new life, she sang not only about her own life but that of her people. Her song is called “The Magnificat” and is found in the Gospel of Luke (1:46-56). The United Choir offers the “Gospel Magnificat” of Robert Ray. We also engage other stories of new life.

Farolito Set-up (3:00 pm Christmas Eve)

Join us Christmas Eve at 3:00 pm to help place the farolitos all around (and on top of) the church for the evening services. Many hands make light work! Please bring long grill lighters.

Christmas Eve Services

Family and Friends, Candles and Carols – 5:00 pm

Carols, a special Christmas Story, a gift for every child, and singing “Silent Night.”

Candlelight Service – 7:00 pm

Carols, candle lighting, the Christmas Choir, and a message of hope.

Candlelight Communion – 9:00 pm

A simple service with the Christmas Story, Communion, and taking God’s light into the night.



Three Christmas Letters
Christmas Day! Sunday, Dec. 25
(10:00 service only)

New Year’s Day Communion
Sunday, Jan. 1
(10:00 only)



Music Notes

by Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music

As far as I can tell when visiting my local Walgreens, Jesus was born the day after Halloween. However, in the church calendar we spend most of December *anticipating* Christ’s birth. One thing I’m joyfully anticipating is our presentation of Robert Ray’s *Gospel Magnificat* during our annual Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Dr. Ray was a longtime Professor of Choral Music at the University of Illinois. His first foray into this kind of writing was his *Gospel Mass* written and premiered by the U of I Gospel Choir in the 1970s. (This year’s FebFest clinician, André Thomas, was a student member of the choir for that premiere.) That piece was so successful Robert later wrote the *Gospel Magnificat* for chorus and jazz combo. A setting of Mary’s song (“My soul doth magnify the Lord”), it’s a perfect text for us to sing on “Mary’s Sunday.”

The Choir will also sing in the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service (the second of United’s 3 services that evening).

In related news, let me invite you to *Coro Lux’s* performances of Handel’s *Messiah* with the NM Philharmonic on Dec. 9, 10 and 11. I’ll be conducting and you’ll recognize several of the soloists. And *Coro Lux’s* “Seasons of Love” concert on Dec. 15 should be another great way to prepare for Christmas.

Brad



FebFest 2023

For the past several years United and *Coro Lux* have collaborated in an annual event called FebFest. This year’s will be the biggest and best one yet! Our special guest is Dr. André Thomas, composer, conductor, current president of the American Choral Directors Association, and Associate Artist/Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra. The event is open to all interested singers with rehearsals and workshops taking place on Saturday, February 4, 2023. The festival choir’s work will culminate in a free concert at The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis at 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 5, at which a free-will offering will be taken to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Those interested in participating as singers should go to abqcorolux.org/tickets/ to register. The cost for singers is \$75, which includes sheet music and lunch on Saturday, plus all the workshops and rehearsals.

Sanctuary Choir with New Mexico Philharmonic (Feb. 11, 2023)

Our Sanctuary Choir, together with Albuquerque’s *Coro Lux*, will join forces with the NM Philharmonic in Beethoven’s magnificent Ninth Symphony, including the choral finale known as “Ode to Joy.” The concert is one night only, in Popejoy Hall on the UNM campus, on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm. For more info and to buy tickets go to nmphil.org/event/the-greatest-beethovens-9th-february-11-2023/

Memorial Gifts for Christmas Wreaths, Poinsettias, and Flowers for Congregational Care

At Christmas, United is adorned with wreaths and poinsettias, that are then delivered to United members and friends for whom the holidays may be hard. Your contributions in honor or memory of loved ones help underwrite it all. (Suggested minimum donation is \$20/name.) Please fill out this form, return to the church or email to unitedchurchsf@gmail.com with names of persons to be remembered or honored. We need names by **Sunday, Dec. 11.**

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND REMEMBRANCES

Please bring or mail your contribution to the church office (1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM 87505) by Sunday, December 11, to be listed in bulletins.

DONOR: _____ Phone: _____

Name of person to be remembered/honored (please check one): In memory of In honor of

(Please print) _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (Please make checks to “UCSF” with note for “Flowers”)



CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks to:

- > Everyone who is helping make the “**We’ve Come This Far by Faith**” Stewardship Season such a success! Particular thanks to Stewardship Chair Bob Ansheles;
- > All the **Musicians** (Conductor Bradley Ellingboe, Pianist Jessie Lo, United Choir, soloists, instrumentalists), Office Administrator Lin Raymond, Videographer Elijah Marquez, volunteer Greeters and ushers (organized by Diane Darby); and all who had a role in the Reformation Day service with Schubert’s “Mass in G;”
- > **Children’s and Youth staff (Kate Murphy, Maria Navarette, Caleb Omolo) and volunteer leaders (especially Gail Ansheles and Karen Wilbanks)** for a host of great programming this past month with United’s youngest members;
- > **All outreach volunteers** who have chopped, grated, advocated for immigrants, collected supplies, delivered food, etc., etc., etc., to love neighbor and love creation;
- > **David Feldt**, for figuring out a pesky plumbing leak and figuring out how to fix it!
- > The **Creator** for a golden October and a November full of blessings!

Blessings and New Life:

- > **Elijah Marquez and Nicole Creaturo**, celebrating the birth of their baby girl, Mia Rose Marquez-Creaturo;
- > **Tatum Amaya Archuleta**, infant daughter of Eric and Denille, who is being baptized on Thanks-Singing Sunday;
- > **Lydia and Jean-Pierre Lair**, who have moved to Texas to be closer to family;
- > **Caroline Burnett**, celebrating the birth of her great, great niece, Cora Joanne, born Nov. 10 to her nephew Caegen and Molly Burnett; and the marriage of her grandson Hunter and Whitney Bagley.

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- > **DiAna Gutierrez**, following the death of her mother; **Eric Manske and his family**, after the death of his mother; **Kim and Ian Bannerman** and their family, in the wake of Kim’s uncle’s death;
- > **Linda Zillman**, recovering from a stroke; **Karen Wilbanks**, recovering from broken bones from a fall; **Zach Zeilik’s partner Meredith Busco**, having major surgeries due to an infection; **Sandy and Terry Vermillion**, after Terry was hospitalized with Covid/pneumonia and is now currently at a skilled nursing facility in Albuquerque; **Paul and Nancy Pelosi**, as he recovers from a vicious attack that was directed toward the Speaker of the House;
- > **All living with Covid**, and their family members and the nurses, doctors, and others who care for them;
- > Persons living with cancer and those who love and care for them (**Todd Smith, Anna Spalding**, and others);
- > **Cliff Beck, Sandy and Terry Vermillion, Monsignor Jerome Martinez, Karl Ray**, and others living with neurological conditions; **Brooke Roberts, Jan McGough, Ed Barker**, and others living with chronic pain or chronic illness;
- > **Individuals and families dealing with mental health issues** (if you, a family member, friend, or co-worker is struggling emotionally, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988) provides 24/7, free and confidential support and crisis resources for people in distress);
- > Persons who are imprisoned and those who love them;
- > Persons at senior facilities (**Vi Varble; Helen Natonabah McCabe, Yvonne Fairchild, Natalie Wells, Margo Clark, Helen Wagner, Karl Ray, Merry and Al Converse, Jere Turner**, and others);
- > Persons caring for family members, near and far: **Linda Eccard, Dave Feldt, Sam and Molly Elkind, Gloria and Terry Griffin, Sam Gerberding**, and others;
- > **Jessie Lo and her extended family in Taiwan**, as tensions with mainland China increase;
- > Other United members and friends with extended families in other countries **Blanca Surgeon and Zulema Zambrano** (Honduras), **Maria Navarette** (El Salvador, Mexico), **Jan and Kitty Jansen** (Netherlands), **Joohee and Lee Rand** (Korea), **Caleb Omolo** (Kenya), **Eva and Lenz Neuhauser** (Austria), **John Walker** (Scotland), **Avril and Jim Ekstrand** (Ireland), and others;
- > The people of Pakistan, Somalia, and other places devastated by drought, floods, and other climate catastrophes;
- > The families and communities whose lives have been shattered by gun violence, and prayers for our legislators and others to have the courage to enact sane and safe gun restrictions;
- > The people of Ukraine, Yemen, Somalia, and other countries impacted by war and violence; immigrant children, teenagers, and adults fleeing violence and poverty, seeking refuge in our country **policymakers** who determine their fate;
- > Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation;
- > Prayers for an end to the pandemic and an end to violence and war.

"A Year of Helping" Continues for United's Children!

Children's Ministry – United Church

Sunday Mornings – 10:00

Throughout Advent, Christmas and into the new year, United's children continue their "Year of Helping" and learning ways to "Love Neighbor and Love Creation." Their hands-on projects include Christmas baskets for families in need, assembling "Kits for Ukraine," assembling casseroles for the Interfaith shelter, and making Christmas bags for the guests at St. Elizabeth's. Many thanks to Volunteer Teacher Gail Ansheles and Children's Assistants Maria Navarette and Caleb Omolo. All welcome—and bring friends!

Advent Wreath Family Kits

Thanks to Gail Ansheles, United families have a way to get ready for the coming of Christmas by observing Advent (the four weeks before Christmas). She has assembled Advent Kits, with materials for making simple Advent wreaths and other ideas for all families. We'll start distributing them on the First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 27).



Children Collect Food for Christmas Baskets

Through Dec. 18, United's children are collecting non-perishable items for Christmas Baskets. Please bring the "fixings" for holiday dinners (stuffing mix, cans of cranberries, sweet potatoes, green beans, etc.). Financial donations to purchase turkeys, fresh vegetables, pies are also welcome!

Family Supper Bags – Friday, Dec. 16
Let us know if you'd like one!

Kids Assemble Hygiene Kits for Ukraine



The war in Ukraine continues and so does United's commitment to care for refugee families. United's children again assemble hygiene kits for Church World Service. Your financial donations and/or

any of the following items are welcomed:

- **Cloth Hand towels (15" x 28" to 16" x 32")**
(no fingertip, bath, dish towel, or micro-fiber)
- **Cloth washcloth;**
- **Wide-tooth comb;**
- **Fingernail or toenail clippers;**
- **Bath-size bar of soap**
(individually wrapped in original package);
- **Toothbrush in original package**
(no toothpaste);
- **Standard size Band-Aids.**

Pray-ers for United's Children and Youth

Would you pray daily for a child in our congregation? Please join our Prayer-Child program to be paired with a United child or youth (from birth through high school). It's simple—offer a prayer every day for your "Prayer-Child." Let Talitha Arnold know if you'd like to participate. We're starting the program again in January.



"Carols and Candles"
Christmas Eve Service for Families
(and anyone else!)

Saturday, Dec. 24 – 5:00 pm

Well-loved carols, a special Christmas Story, a gift for every child and youth, and closing with lighting our candles and singing "Silent Night." Christmas Eve at United is a very special time, and we make sure children and families experience its mystery and magic, too. Join in the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service—and bring a friend. You're also invited to the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (with the full choir) and/or the 9:00 pm Candlelight Communion. (Some of us come to all three services!)

The Nutcracker Ballet

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2:00 pm (Lentic)

Bonnie Bannerman performs in *The Nutcracker* at the Lentic on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2:00 pm performance. Tickets and info: lentic.org/events/the-nutcracker/

YOUTH MINISTRIES

(Gather in the downstairs Youth Room.)

Young Adventurers (5th - 7th) – Sundays at 10:00 am
Youth Initiates (8th - 10th) – Sundays at 11:15 am
JAS (Juniors and Seniors) – Monthly for Special Events

Young Adventurers & Youth Initiates

Our YA kids join with the Initiates in our Compassionate Gifts endeavor. We'll make mitten, hat, and stocking ornaments to sell during Compassionate Gift Sundays to decorate our mitten tree (see below).

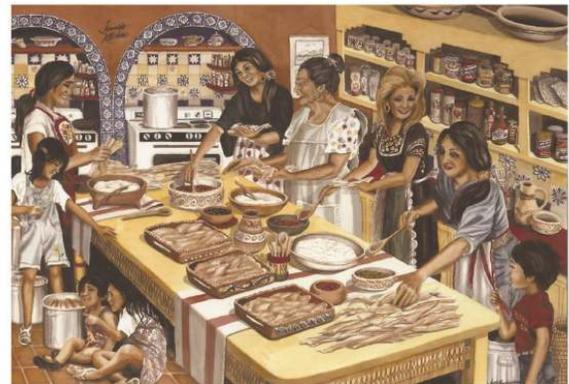
Youth Initiates

Our Initiates have been working on prayerful ways to influence United Nations global issues, and they are excited to share their researched intercessory prayers in the January newsletter.

Compassionate Christmas Gifts

Young Adventurers & Youth Initiates Table

At the YA and YI Compassionate Christmas Gifts table, purchase a \$15 mitten, hat, or stocking ornament for you to hang on our Christmas tree. Money raised purchases *real* mittens, hats, and socks for children in need in the Growing Up New Mexico program. Please consider support this youth outreach.



LA TAMALADA
By José Andrés Girón



Break the Ice – SF Youth Symphony Concert **Saturday, Dec. 3 at 6:00 pm (Lentic)**

The concert features Jazz Project-Los Alamos, Mariachi Estrella, Youth Philharmonic, and Youth Symphony Orchestra. United Youth Sasha Smucker, Jack Smucker, Luke Rand, and Jaden Rand perform. Hope everyone can enjoy an evening out and support our youth. Tickets: lentic.org/events/break-the-ice-2/.

Holiday Tamalada

Friday, Dec. 9 (6:30—8:30 pm)

The Juniors and Seniors (JAS), Youth Initiates, and Young Adventurers gather for a tamale-making party for fun, fellowship, and treats to take home! Supported by parents and mentors, we'll celebrate God's abundance and better understand a rich New Mexico holiday tradition. We'll have tamales to eat together that night and some to take home and enjoy with your family or freeze for later. Flavors:

- Vegetarian zucchini & corn with green chile
- Traditional red chile pork



INTERGENERATIONAL **BORDER IMMERSION TRIP**

Saturday, March 18 -Thursday, March 23, 2023

This spring United offers an opportunity for a group of youth and adults to travel to the Southern Arizona/Northern Mexico border to engage in service work, learn about the complexities of immigration, the "wall," and the impact on both people and the creation. Details are still in process, but if you're interested, please contact Talitha Arnold or Kate Murphy. Group limited to 12 persons plus leaders.

Upcoming Sunday Forums (11:15)

When the Holidays Are Different (Nov. 20)

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 others' expectations. Join in this discussion and get resources for ways to deal with such challenges.



The Planet You Inherit:

Letters to My Grandchildren (Nov. 27)

Larry Rasmussen – Book Signing!



Larry Rasmussen's new book of letters to his grandchildren cover a wide range of issues: climate system change, mass extinction, the pandemic, race reckoning, the state of democracy, etc., etc. As our children and grandchildren confront the world to come, how will their viewpoints differ from our own? What legacies do grandparents wish to leave?

Immigrants and Refugees (Dec. 4)

United's Immigration and Refugee Task Force presents the range of work they're doing, from hands-on support for the Afghan family in Santa Fe to advocacy to collecting supplies for "dignity kits" for persons in the border detention centers. A timely topic in Advent as we remember Jesus and his family were refugees, too.



December 11 and 18 Adult Forums to be announced later.

No Forums on Sundays, December 25 and January 1.

Nuclear Disarmament Study Group

Did you know if New Mexico were a separate country, it would be the third largest nuclear weapons power in the world? If you're interested in a Nuclear Disarmament Study Group, contact Ellie Voutselas (ellievout@gmail.com; 505-577-0893).



The Desert Shall Bloom Advent Retreat

Saturday, Dec. 10 (9:00 am—12:00 noon)

Take time for reflection, prayer and silence and consider the real gifts God wants to offer us this season with a half-day "Advent Retreat" based on Isaiah's promises. RSVP by Monday, December 6. (Childcare provided, if needed.)

Study and Fellowship Groups

Wednesday Women's Study Group Dec. 7 and 14 (10:00 am)

All women are invited to join the discussion of *The House at Otowi Bridge* by Peggy Pond Church (Dec. 7) and then a time of Christmas Sharing (Dec. 14). (Barbara MacPhee, macphee.b@gmail.com)

Pretty Good Guys

We're going on hiatus until January. We'll resume Wed., Jan. 11, to make 100 burritos for the Interfaith Shelter and to discuss what's coming up for the group in the New Year.

Hope in a Hard Time

Weekly Zoom Bible Study on Zoom

Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15 (8:00 - 9:00 am MT)

The visions of the ancient Prophet Isaiah have given people hope down through the ages. Join in this Advent study to explore those visions and find that hope. Please pre-register. (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com) All welcome! People tune in from all around the country.

Christian Mystics

(Possible study group to start in January)

Hildegard of Bingen. Julian of Norwich. Meister Eckhart. All lived in tumultuous times, trying to make sense of their world and trying stay connected to God. If you'd be interested in an evening Zoom group exploring the lives and faith of such mystics, please let Talitha know.



Announcements and Events

Thank You for YOUR Pledges to *WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH* Campaign for United 2023

Many friends and members have already committed to “Campaign for United 2023!” Great gratitude for all who organized United’s “Speed-Dating” and Tailgate Party, spoke in worship, addressed and stuffed envelopes—and to members and friends near and far, who’ve pledged so generously. So far we’ve received 85 pledges for \$297,051. We’ll make the \$550,000 goal with your help! Bring your pledge card to worship, mail it USPS, or send it via email. Also please consider electronic debit/credit program. Email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or call (505) 988-3295 for info and forms. Thank you and thanks be to God!



A Honduran Holiday Celebration! December 11

Pupusas and tamales made by Blanca and her family! By now we hope that this tradition of a Honduran Holiday meal fills you with as much hope as it does to the organizations we are helping: Bilingual Education for Central America (BECA) and Oasis de Amor communities. Once again, the Honduran feast is delivered to your door **or** available for pick up. **To order plates:** please email Blanca at: blancasurgeon@hotmail.com, or call (505) 577-6917. Suggested per plate donation is \$25. All proceeds go directly to the organizations. Make checks payable to either organization. To learn more about BECA and Hogar Oasis de Amor please visit becaschools.org and Facebook page (hogaroasisdeamor).

Las Posadas at United Thursday, Dec. 22 at 6:00 pm

Share in this wonderful New Mexico tradition as we welcome the community of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis for an early evening of song, prayer, and a visit from a couple of newlyweds. For the night, United becomes the stable of Bethlehem to welcome them (and provide hospitality and refreshments). Sign up to let us know you can help. And plan to come—all ages welcome!



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)



Year-End Giving

To claim a charitable deduction for 2022, donations must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2022. Checks received after Dec. 31 cannot qualify for a charitable deduction for 2022, even if predated 2022. (Sorry!) To contribute online, go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org and click “Donate Now.” Many thanks!

Migrant Shelter in Nogales, Mexico

The House of Mercy and All Nations is a migrant shelter in Nogales, Mexico (across the border from Nogales, Arizona) that currently houses 120 asylum-seekers—unaccompanied minors, pregnant women, and seven babies—all waiting to cross. Learn more at youtube.com/watch?v=YgxTBMG4rD4.

INTERGENERATIONAL BORDER IMMERSION TRIP

(Sat., March 18 -Thurs., March 23, 2023)

United offers a chance for youth and adults to travel to the Southern Arizona/Northern Mexico border to learn the complexities of immigration and the impact of U.S. policies on people and creation. Details in process. Interested? Please contact Talitha Arnold or Kate Murphy.



2017 Intergenerational Border Immersion Trip

Compassionate Christmas Gift Market

In the true spirit of Christmas, we invite you to give United's *Compassionate Christmas Gifts* that give hope, care, and joy to people and places in need. The market will be Sundays Dec. 4, 11, and 18. Gifts include:

New Mexico Immigrant Law Center: \$30

Legal Services and Advocacy for Children, Youth, and Families.

Santa Fe Shelters for the Homeless: \$60

One night at St. Elizabeth, Casa Familia, Interfaith, or Youth Shelters.

Church World Service: \$10

Blankets for Ukraine.

A Child's "Comfort" Back Pack: \$25

A Solace Crisis Center backpack with pj's, stuffed toy, etc.

Youth Immersion Trip Scholarship: \$35

Toward a youth scholarship for the Spring Border Immersion Trip.

Mitten Tree: \$15

Through "Growing Up New Mexico," provide a pair of mittens for a child.

Field Trip to Audubon Center: \$25

Sponsor a public school child to Santa Fe's Randall Davey Audubon Center.



LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR!

(Please mail financial donations to United Church, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM 87505 or go online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Resource donations—e.g., food, toiletries, etc. go in Community Room Boxes.)

Shelter Dinners for Persons Who Are Homeless

Over each month, we supply 170 burritos from Felipe's Tacos for guests of Interfaith, St. Elizabeth, and Casa Familia Shelter. Your donations make it possible! (Memo: Shelter Dinners.) Thank you!

Monetary Donations for Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Navajoland

United sends regular financial support to this congregation in the heart of Diné/Navajoland to help with covid supplies and other needs. (memo: Diné.)



LOVE GOD, LOVE CREATION!

Compost Collection for Creation!

Bring your compostable products to deposit anytime (easy access from the church parking lot) in the green bin. Compostable garbage bags available at church. (Please **DON'T** USE standard plastic bags.) Questions? Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700) or go to reunityresources.com. Thanks!

United's Carbon Offset Program

When you travel this holiday, track your mileage and support *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and *Tree New Mexico* by donating through United's Carbon Offset Program. Information: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/post/unitedscarbonoffsetprogram.

Toiletries for Shelter Christmas Bags

Through Dec. 18, we collect individual size new toiletries (e.g., shampoo, lotion, soap, toothpaste, etc.) for Christmas Bags United children assemble for St. Elizabeth Shelter guests. (Please no mouthwash, meds, razors, etc.). Thank you!



"Chop and Grate" Morning for Santa Fe Shelters Friday, Dec. 16—9:30 am

Help prepare veggies and cheese for United's children to mix into casseroles in Children's Ministry. Meet new friends and provide good food for shelter guests. Please let us know you're coming. Thanks!

United Church of Christ Christmas Fund

Many United Church of Christ retirees faithfully served low-income inner-city or rural congregations and/or communities of color, and their pensions are very low. The UCC Christmas Fund provides emergency grants, supplemental annuities, and health insurance, Christmas "Thank You" checks for clergy retirees in need. With inflation, that need is greater than ever. To donate, go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org (Donate Now) or send a check to United Church of Santa Fe (memo "Christmas Fund").

DECEMBER

2022



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>ECO TIPS: Get with the Program!</p> <p>Turning the thermostat down when you are away during the day or at night when sleeping is good for the environment (and your wallet, too). But it can be a challenge to remember that every day. A programmable thermostat can remember for you and is a simple way to save energy!</p>						
<p>4</p> <p>8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:15 am</p> <p>Second Sunday of Advent</p>  <p>Contemplative Communion Service Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Compassionate Christmas Worship Service, Children's Ministry, Young Adventurers Adult Forum, Youth Initiates Compassionate Christmas Gifts Market</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 am Women's Study Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00 am <i>Hope in a Hard Time</i> Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00 pm Newsletter Deadline Children's Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 pm <i>Tamalada</i> ALL Youth Tamale Making Party</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 am—12:00 noon Advent Retreat</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:15 am</p> <p>Joyous Sunday of Advent</p>  <p>Contemplative Communion Service Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Compassionate Christmas Worship Service, Children's Ministry, Young Adventurers Adult Forum Youth Initiates Compassionate Christmas Gifts Market</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 am Women's Study Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00 am <i>Hope in a Hard Time</i> Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 am "Chop & Grate" Family Supper Bags</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:15 am</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent Lessons & Carols</p>  <p>Contemplative Communion Service Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Compassionate Christmas Worship Services, Children's Ministry, Young Adventurers Adult Forum, Youth Initiates Compassionate Christmas Gifts Market</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 am Newsletter Folding</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 pm <i>Las Posadas</i> (at United)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>3:00 pm Farolito Setup 5:00 pm Family & Friends Carols & Candles 7:00 pm Candlelight Service 9:00 pm Candlelight Communion</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10:00 am</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Worship Service (one service only)</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1804 Arroyo Chamiso - Santa Fe NM 87505

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Mailing Date — November 17, 2022

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 198
Santa Fe NM 87501

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 historically emphasized freedom of thought and belief as well as a commitment to the community. 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!

LIVESTREAM, OUTDOOR, AND INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED

United (even apart) Church is also United (outdoors and indoors) Church! We continue to offer both the **10:00 am Sunday service in-person indoors** and also the **livestream of the service online** (access it on United’s website: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://www.unitedchurchofsantafe.org)). We also offer an **8:30 am Contemplative Communion service** (weather permitting). For the indoor service, proof of vaccination (except if unable to be vaccinated due to age or medical condition) and masks required. You can keep your vaccination confirmation on file at the church. For more information email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.