

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

Prayers for a Season of . . .

Mother Earth Day Sunday

May 12

*Loving God,
Lead us beyond ourselves
to care and protect,
to nourish and shape,
to challenge and energize
both the life and the world
you have given us.*

Joan Chittister (O.S.B.)

Graduations and Other New Beginnings

We remember our ancestors in the faith, as young people on the edge of new life and a new world. . .

Miriam, courageous and clever, not too young to protect her family.

Jeremiah, who was not too young to become a prophet.

David, chosen in spite of his youth, anointed with tasks of the future.

Esther, born to “such a time as this,” resourceful in justice.

Mary, welcoming an angel, singing a song, bearing a child.

Jesus in the temple, insisting on the adult questions, the adult answers.

Jairus’ daughter, brought back to life and possibility.

Timothy, learning from past generations, but kindling his own call.

We celebrate the gifts of **all young people**.

We promise to listen to them and learn from them.

We expect much and pray for God’s continuing grace in their lives.

Thanks be to God!

A Prayer for Our Church

(Because it’s Pentecost on May 19 and our 44th Birthday May 25!)

On that first Pentecost, you poured out your Spirit
and your people dreamed dreams and saw visions.

Pour out that same Spirit upon us, O Lord,

and give us the courage

to let it transform our lives and the life of your church.

Give us your vision of justice and mercy.

Give us your vision of peace and hope.

Give us your vision of a new creation—
of ourselves and this world.

Amen.

For All God’s Children—in any season

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.

Inside this issue:

Pastor’s Message	2	Care and Concern	5
Worship	3	Outreach	6
Children’s & Youth Ministries / Music	4	Adult Faith Formation / Endowment	7

**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,

So . . . how are the 50 days of Easter going? What are signs of new life you've seen, heard, or known since Easter Sunday?

That day (26 days ago), we explored that in the Christian church, Easter is not just one day, but a 50-day season, ten days longer than Lent. We passed out pocket notebooks with the invitation to keep track of one experience of God's new life each of those 50 days. It's a way to remind ourselves that God's gifts aren't limited to one day. Instead, God's love that overcomes fear comes new to us each day. So does the gift of God's new life.

Being conscious of those gifts on a daily basis can strengthen the muscle called hope. So what new life have you known since Easter?

I asked the Church Council that question last week. Perhaps as for you, their answers were varied. Some found the daily recording of some experience of new life offered a good rhythm to life. As one person said, "writing down even the smallest sign—like a new flower or a grandchild's smile—pushes back the daily onslaught of bad news." For another person who is dealing with a loved one's difficult journey, "trying to remember some gift of new life each day helps put the rest of life in perspective—and gives me hope for the next day."

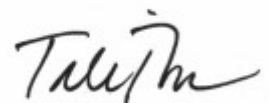
Others "confessed" they hadn't recorded anything (and that's okay!). One person said that after the chocolate bunnies had been eaten and the Easter lilies began to droop, it helped to think of Easter's promise of new life continuing—even if they didn't write it down. Another talked about a family member's major experience of new life that had been in the works for several years and finally came to fruition.

New life comes to us in all kinds of ways, each with its own rhythm. Whether we record it or not, it helps to exercise our muscles of hope and trust on a regular basis. This May, we'll use those muscles together—and have a good time doing so—as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday and United's 44th Birthday on May 19! Two thousand years ago, 50 days after the first Easter, Pentecost was when God's Spirit poured out on all people to "dream dreams and see visions." The Christian Church was born. Forty-four years ago, 50 days after Easter 1980, God's Spirit poured out on the people who started United Church of Santa Fe, locally and throughout the United Church of Christ. For 44 years, God's spirit has continued to pour out, so each generation could envision God's new life for our church and for the world we serve.

You can help with the May 19 celebration! Whether via email (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com) or a note, send us one of your Eastertide experiences of God's new life and also one experience of the new life United has offered you this year or any year.

We're only halfway through Easter's 50 days—enjoy!

Blessings,



Worship in May

The Questions of Easter

Worship in Eastertide

(The 50-Day Season after Easter)

8:30 Contemplative Communion and 10:00 Sanctuary Service

The first Easter raised more questions than it answered. Easter still does. We'll explore some of those questions as we move through Eastertide and into Pentecost (which raises even more questions!).



What's the Connection?

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. Rev. Ben Larzelere is guest preacher.

All of Them? All of Me?

6th Sunday of Easter – May 5

The Waters of Life, the Waters of Love

Both the Acts story and John's Gospel tell of the gift of water as a sign of God's life and love. In Acts, it's the waters of baptism poured out on Jew and Gentile. (Acts 10:44-48) In the Gospel, Jesus washes the feet of his disciples to show his love for them, **all** of them—even Judas, even Peter. (John 13:9-17) Rev. Ben Larzelere is guest preacher.



Who Gave You the Words of Life?

7th Sunday of Easter – May 12

In his last night with the disciples, Jesus tells them he has given them God's word of life. (John 17:6-19) So even though he won't be with them, they will have life. Who has given us the words of life? A good theme for a day in which we give thanks for parents and those who have been like parents to us.

What Dreams Can Come?

Pentecost Sunday and United's 44th Birthday!

May 19 – Wear Red!

When God's spirit was poured out on the first Christians, they dreamed dreams and saw visions. (Acts 2:1-21) As we celebrate both Pentecost and United's 44th birthday, what dreams has God given us? What vision and courage do we need to live into those dreams?



First Memorial Day celebration (May 1, 1865)
lead by Black children in Charleston, SC.

Who Is My Kin?

1st Sunday after Pentecost and before Memorial Day (May 26)

Shortly before his death at the hands of the Roman Empire, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Roman Christians that God had given them not the spirit of slavery, but of kinship. They were children of God, connected to Christ and one another. It's a challenging passage for the Sunday before Memorial Day—a holiday that has its origins in the American Civil War and the decision of formerly enslaved people to care for the dead of both sides of that terrible war. That's kinship.

Music

The forty days of Lent are behind us and now it's spring and the fifty days of Eastertide. On April 21 the choir sang a setting of the 23rd Psalm by jazz great Bobby McFerrin. The twist on this setting is that all the God imagery is female. Perhaps McFerrin's unique harmonies and changed language let us hear these beloved words with new ears. On April 28 the choir premieres a new piece of mine, "O Blessed Spring," with words by the poet Susan Palo Chervien, who died too soon of cancer in 2021.

On Sat., April 27 United once again hosts "Santa Fe Sings," sponsored by the Desert Chorale and led by their artistic director, Josh Habermann. Think about joining in the fun! Josh does a great job and we're proud to open our doors to this community-wide event. Go to: desertchorale.org/concerts-events/santa-fe-sings/ to register and for more info.

The choir sings through Pentecost this season (May 19). Between now and then we'll also observe Mother's Day before heading into our summer schedule. Drop-In Choirs this summer will be June 2, July 14, and August 11, but more on that next month!

See you in church!

Bradley Ellingboe
Director of Music



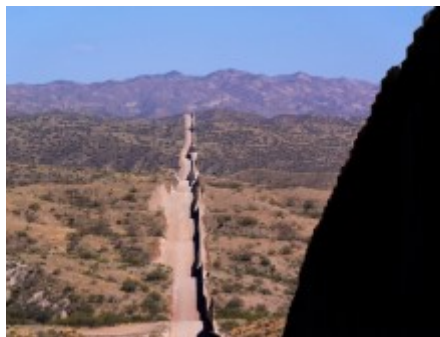
Coro Lux Concert: *Carmina Burana*

Friday & Saturday, May 3 & 4, 7:00 pm

Coro Lux, directed by Bradley Ellingboe, presents Carl Orff's epic cantata *Carmina Burana*, with professional soloists and dancers. (Dr. Jessie Lo is also a pianist for the concert) ABQ's St. Paul Lutheran Church. Tickets: abqcorolux.org/tickets/.

Youth/Adult Border Trip (Tuesday, May 28 to Friday, May 31)

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 and adults are invited. If you're interested, please let Talitha know.



Youth Trips

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.

Children & Youth

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

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

- On Easter Sunday, United kids assembled 100 more hygiene kits for Church World Service to send to Ukraine and Gaza.
- On Sat., April 27, kids and adults are invited to help with United's River Cleanup (see Outreach p. 6).
- On Sat., May 4, United kids and adults will also enjoy a river hike (see below).
- On Sunday, May 12, they'll decorate **Mother's Day cookies** (for everyone :-).

And on **Pentecost Sunday (May 19)**, they'll help us all celebrate God's dreams and visions for our church!



All-Ages Church Hike

Saturday, May 4 (9:00 – 11:30 am)

Join us Saturday, May 4 for a lovely hike along the Santa Fe River. Meet at United at 9:00 to carpool to trailhead. We walk through trees for about a mile+, stopping to see plants and listen to birds. Great opportunity for all ages, especially those new to "hiking." Sign up: in the Community Room or by email: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com (info: Caroline Burnett or Karen Wilbanks).



CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks for:

- **Nancy Merchat and her volunteers (Christy and Joe Jones, Beth and Frank Cionek, Tom Merchat),** for organizing receptions for three memorial services, and many other who helped with greeting and reading.

Prayers of New Life for:

- The new members who “owned the covenant” and joined United on the Fourth Sunday of Easter: **Ron and Lee Evenson, Rosemary Thompson.** (We will again receive new members Sunday, June 2.)
- **All students, teachers, administrators, and school staffs,** as they head for the school-year finish line.
- Blessings and congratulations to our High School graduates: **Destiny Muñoz,** (Capitol High); **Ada Zoe Zgela, Maya Aalberts, Makayla Darby, Ailey Cassidy-Jones, Luci Cassidy-Jones, Sev Kofler** (Santa Fe High); and Middle School graduate **Ophelia Grafe.** (They will be honored on Sunday, May 19.)
- **Eva Agatha Rasmussen,** new granddaughter of Nyla and Larry; Janet Harris’ new grandniece, **Nora Louise,** who is also facing multiple surgeries in the coming months;
- **Anne Hillerman,** on the publication of *Lost Birds*, her latest book in the Leaphorn, Chee and Manuelito mystery series.

Healing and Hope for:

- Persons recovering from recent hospitalizations and those who care for them: **Linda and Roger Knapp,** in a rehab center in Albuquerque; **Melanie Ranney,** knee replacement; **Gail Mattson,** as she continues physical therapy in Albuquerque following a stroke; **Jo Rhodes,** recovering from a badly broken arm .
- **Donnette and Scott Wagner,** following the unexpected death of their niece; **Jan and Kitty Jansen,** following the death of Jan’s sister in Holland at the end of last year.
- 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, Ron Evenson, Prof. David Daniels, Tim Gautchier, 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.

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 May



On Call: Dave Wilkison (505) 400-0504
Food: June Yoder (505) 503-0555

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; preparing casseroles at church (“Chop and Grate”); delivering food. Please contact Pat Roach: proach102@comcast.net or 505-988-7357. Details for May:

- Lots of meatloaves needed.
- May 24 (Friday, 9:30 am) – Chop and Grate
- May 27 (Monday) – Deliver to Interfaith, Casa Familia, and St. Elizabeth.



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 \$4,312 and on Easter Sunday, United children (with help from Maria Navarette, Maggie Popp, and Lin Raymond) assembled another 100 kits. Help support the effort online (unitedchurchofsantafe.org) or by check (memo: CWS kits). Thank you!

Youth/Adult Border Trip

(Tuesday, May 28 to Friday, May 31)

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 and adults are invited. If you're interested, please let Talitha know.



Immigration & Refugee Task Force May Donation Drive

In honor of Mother's Day, the Immigration & Refugee Task Force invites you to donate these items for an immigration shelter in Deming, NM: clothes for little boys (long sleeve shirts, long pants, underwear); adult underwear for mothers; and children's over-the-counter medicines (allergy, colds, Tylenol). Please put items in Community Room bins by Sunday, May 19. Thank you!

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. Through March, United members and friends have tracked their travel info and donated \$1,103.



Founded in Love, Building in Faith **United Church's Endowment Initiative**

A quick quiz: which of the following have you experienced through the United Church of Santa Fe? (Please check all that apply.)

- _____ Sitting in the shade of the outdoor umbrellas and trees for worship or brunch.
- _____ Seeing our children and youth plant flowers, lead worship, assemble Church World Service Kits for refugees—as they learn about God's love for them and the whole world.
- _____ Been blessed by our annual FebFest choral festival with nationally known African American conductors.
- _____ Had your spirits lifted by the beauty of United's outdoor spaces through every season.

If you checked any of the above, you've experienced the gift of United's Endowment. Thanks to the commitment of previous United generations, our church has offered all this and more over the last 40 years, even through "coroname."

Through United's ongoing *Founded in Love, Building in Faith* endowment campaign, we can build on that foundation of financial commitment. Your decision to include United in your will or other estate planning will help United's future generations weather life's storms and uncertainties. Gifts and bequests to United's Endowment ensure that those who come after us are strengthened and fed by United's ministries, so they in turn can strengthen and feed a world hungry for love, beauty, and hope. We hope you'll join in this effort.

To learn more about including the United Church of Santa Fe in your will or other estate planning, 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!

Sunday Forums **(11:15 after 10:00 worship)**

May 5

Planting for Pollinators

Santa Fe Botanical Garden Head Horticulturist (and United member) Linda Churchill shares her knowledge and experience for choosing the best plants for supporting bees and other pollinators (upon which all life depends).

May 19

United's 44th Birthday Bash

And we celebrate our birthdays, too!

Kids and adults gather by our birthday months to share lunch (with cupcakes :-)) and get acquainted. All welcome!



May Day Celebration on United's Property—1981

Groups and Gatherings

Wednesday Women's Study Group

May 1 and 15 – 10:00 am

May 1 is "Show and Tell," as we each share a book that has inspired us. On May 15, we'll discuss possible books for study next year. All women welcome! (Barbara MacPhee, macphee.b@gmail.com)

Pretty Good Guys

May 8 and 22 (10:30 to Noon)

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 (May 9, 16, 23)

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). Info/register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. All welcome!

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!

**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). 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!