

**A CELEBRATION OF THE JOURNEYS OF OUR YOUTH
and
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE
and
MOTHERS' DAY**

**May 10, 2026
10:00 A.M.**

**The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ**

For Reflection

Using All that I've Got Left

Roses for remembrance;
Daffodils to sing.
Let us do a sundance
To honor everything!
(No, I can't dance, honey –
My legs just barely wiggle
But I am gonna try it, kid.
And you are free to giggle.)
So what if I should slip and fall
And break stuff while I sing?
I'm using all that I've got left
To honor everything!

Mary Ellen Schmich

(She was the mother of Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist Mary T. Schmich.
She wrote and re-wrote her poem in the months before her death at age 87.)



WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!

Welcome to the United Church of Santa Fe! We are glad you are sharing in this special Celebration of the Journeys of our Youth, as our United Confirmand Initiates conclude a multi-year "Journey to Adulthood." At the end of the service, the Initiates will be invited to enter into the world of adult life and to continue the journey of faith. Some choose to confirm their faith and join the church. All will affirm their new adult lives and receive the laying on of hands and blessings for their journey. Our younger youth (Pre-Confirmand-Initiates) will also receive a blessing during the service.

United's "Confirmation and Initiation to Adulthood" program for early adolescents has been central to our youth ministry for many years to help young people navigate the journey from childhood to adulthood. Today some of our Confirmand/Initiates share their statements of faith and what they believe at this stage of their lives about faith, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Church.

We invite 3rd graders and older youth to stay in the full service today as many of them will experience this powerful time in the future. Second graders and younger are invited to Kids United during the Song of Praise. They'll return for the time of Blessing at the end of the service. Again, welcome! We're glad you're here!

WE GATHER

*(May the first note of the Gathering Music be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship.
Also, please turn off your cell phone upon entering the Sanctuary.)*

- Gathering Music *Song without Words in C Major* Felix Mendelssohn
Love Diving, All Loves Excelling Prichard/arr. Hartsell
- *Introit *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil* (2x) Archbishop Desmond Tutu/John Bell
**Please rise in body or spirit.*
- Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours through God who loves us.
Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours through God who loves us.*
- Tune: © 1996, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: Original text by Tutu;
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Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing God's Good News *Christ is Risen ! Risen indeed!* *Beauty is restored! Restored indeed!*

Regathering *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil* (1x)

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship *If Ye Love Me* Thomas Tallis

The Call to Worship

In the times of doubt and uncertainty on our journeys through life, walk by our side, gracious One.
Camina a nuestro lado, Bondadoso.

Walk by our side, gracious One, so we may hear your voice.

In the choices and challenges we face, walk by our side, powerful One.
Camina a nuestro lado, Poderosa.

Walk by our side, powerful One, so we may sense your presence.

On our lifelong journey and search for hope, faith, and love, walk by our side, loving One.
Camina a nuestro lado, Amaro.

Walk by our side, loving One, so we may always know you are there.

Vengan, hijos e hijas de Dios.

Come, sons and daughters of God. Let us worship the God of hope, faith, and love.

*Hymn 350 *Now in the Days of Youth* (1-3) Walter Mathams/Diademata

WE PREPARE

*A Prayer of Invocation

God of endings and beginnings, we give thanks for your spirit that surrounds our lives and this time of new life. Quiet our minds and calm our hearts as we gather in this place to hear your promise in our lives and the lives of all your children. As we walk the path of faith, create in us the capacity to experience your grace and recognize your vision. May this time call us forward, moving us to places of peace, hope, and love for your people and all creation. Amen.

*A Time of Silence and the Assurance of God's Grace

*Our Song of Praise *Now in the Days of Youth* Walter Mathams/Diademata

*Teacher, Creator, God, enfold us in your arms; Be with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm.
All good and perfect gifts come to us from your hand. O help us use them carefully and live by love's command.*

*(Children in 3rd grade and older are encouraged to stay in the service this morning.
Kids United is available for 2nd graders and younger children in the Nurture Center.)*

WE ENGAGE

Word of Introduction

Rev. Talitha Arnold and Family Minister Dana Bender

[On the last night of his life, Jesus said to his disciples,] "If you love me, you will walk in my ways. I will ask the Creator to send one who will always walk beside you and guide you on the Good Road. It is the Spirit of truth....

I will not leave you as a child without parents. I will always be with you. ... I have told you these things while I am still with you, but there is one whom God is sending to represent me. This One will walk beside you and be your spirit guide. It is the Holy Spirit, who will be your Wisdomkeeper and will help you to remember all that I have told you.

"I leave you now with my great peace. It is my gift to you. It is not the kind of peace the world gives. Do not let the troubles of this world fill you with fear and make your hearts fall to the ground, and do not let fear hold you back....

[Then he said to them,] "Get up! It is time for us to go from here."

Hymn 354 *God, When I Came into This Life* (1-2) Land of Rest

Reflections of Faith

Bonnie Bannerman 8th grade, El Dorado Community School
Silence

Hymn 354 *God, When I Came into This Life* (v. 3) Land of Rest

Jack Smucker 9th grade, Santa Fe Prep
Silence

Hymn 354 *God, When I Came into This Life* (v. 4-5) Land of Rest

Sasha Smucker 12th grade, Santa Fe Prep
Silence

A Final Reflection *Using All That I've Got Left* Mary Ellen Schmich (age 87)
Silence

Musical Response 351 *I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry* Boring Cry

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer

God of all the ages and stages of life, we thank you for your love throughout our lives.
(silent prayer)

We thank you for your love that will not let us go and will not let us down.
(silent prayer)

We thank you for all the ways we have known your love, through other people and through all creation.
(silent prayer)

We thank you for helping us share your love with others.
(silent prayer)

We pray for those who need your love and our commitment.
(silent prayer)

We pray that we might always trust your love and presence in our lives.
(silent prayer)

We pray all this in the name of the One who showed your love, who empowers us to love others, and who taught us to pray, saying:

(Please pray a version of the Lord's Prayer familiar to you.)

Sharing our Abundance *Ubi Caritas* Ola Gjeilo

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

All that we are and all that we have comes from your abundant heart and gracious hand. Receive these gifts and our lives so that all people and all creation might know that abundance and grace. Amen.

WE SHARE THE RITE OF INITIATION TO ADULTHOOD AND CONFIRMATION

Presentation of the Confirmand-Initiates

Bonnie Bannerman Jack Smucker Sasha Smucker Weston Puglisi Luke Rand Bailey Gordon
(The Confirmand-Initiates face the congregation with their Mentors and Church Council behind them.)

Questions of the Youth Confirmand-Initiates as They Become New Adults...

Will you, with God's help, assume the rights and responsibilities of adulthood in relation to the world, the church, and yourself?

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to continue the journey of faith, being open to God's leading and the care of this community?

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to follow in the way of Jesus, the way of love and justice, to resist oppression and evil, and to witness to God's work and word of hope as best you are able?

As the Newest Members of the United Church

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ and of the United Church of Santa Fe, celebrating God's presence and furthering God's mission of love and hope in all the world?

*Questions of the Congregation

Do you who witness and celebrate this Rite of Confirmation and Initiation for our youth, promise your love, support, and care for them as they accept the responsibilities of adult life and continue their journeys of faith? Will you continue to pray for these young people as they live and grow in Christ and in love for God, neighbor, and creation?

If so, please respond: **"We promise, and with God's help, we do."**

Blessing and Commissioning with the Laying on of Hands

(The Confirmand Initiates kneel in front of the altar, as each receives a blessing and "laying on of hands" from the adults. The new adults then "rise to new life." When all have been blessed and risen to their adult life, we share the Covenant of the United Church of Santa Fe.)

*Sharing the 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 walk in the ways of Jesus the Christ,
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.**

*Offering Our Prayers for the Young Adults

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. Draw near to these persons as they end one stage of life and faith and enter another. Be with them and all who care for them. Increase in them, and in us, the desire to follow you, the courage to question you, and the willingness to learn from you. Most of all, remind them that you are always with them, wherever their journey may take them. Amen.

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn 18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

William Williams/Cwm Rhonda

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Ukrainian Chant

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We're glad you've joined us in this special service this morning! We invite you also to explore the ways we seek to "love God, Neighbor, and Creation" by visiting the United website: unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Again, welcome!

BLESSINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YOUTH INITIATES

Today we honor young adults as they complete one chapter of their journeys of life and faith and begin a new one. Please extend your blessings to them, their parents and mentors during the fellowship time.

Along with the three Reflectors (Bonnie Bannerman, Jack Smucker, Sasha Smucker), sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Dana Bender, Director of Family, Youth, and Children's Ministries; Michelle Schumann, Pianist and Director of Music; the Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; Liturgists and Readers Blanca Surgeon and Leo Joyce Brown; Sam Elkind, Moderator of the Congregation; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez and volunteer Frank Wilbanks. The Ministers of Hospitality who greeted you are Marcia Gardner, Dona Cook, Rosemary Thompson, Pam Hyde; and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

We also thank the Youth Mentors (Sheree Whitney, Bruce Turnquist, Melanie Lohmann, Laura and John Johnson, Judy Rainger) who accompanied our Youth on their journeys this year. And thanks, too, to Karen and Frank Wilbanks who chaperoned the 2023 Navajo/Diné immersion trip; to Sally Stewart, Melanie Lohmann, and the late Steve Kerchoff, who chaperoned the 2024 Arizona/Sonora Borderland trip, and to Louise Cavatta, chaperone for the 2025 Sandia Mountain trip.

Children in 3rd grade and up are encouraged to stay in the service this morning. For children, birth through 2nd grade, childcare is available in the Nurture Center with Children Ministry Assistants Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.

ADULT FORUM SERIES: *The Climate: Social, Material, Moral-Spiritual* – Today, 11:15 am

Led by Environmental Ethicist Larry Rasmussen (Professor Emeritus – Union Seminary), this Sunday's forum concludes the three-part series. Participants will sit as jurors for three cases rendering decisions about what should now be done for the comprehensive climate—social, moral-spiritual, and material.

Next Sunday, Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 17

Renewing the Covenant

We are honored to welcome Rabbi Martin Levy of Temple Beit Tikva the Sunday before Shavuot (the Jewish celebration for renewal of the covenant) and Pentecost (the Christian celebration of our renewal through God's Spirit). Rabbi Levy and Talitha share a dialogue sermon on keeping covenant with God, neighbor, and creation.

Adult Forum: *Jewish in America 2026* – 11:15 am

Following his dialogue sermon with Talitha, Rabbi Martin Levy of Temple Beit Tikva will share some of the spiritual, moral, and practical challenges facing Jews and their communities in this time in the U.S.

Walking Group – Wednesday, May 13 (10:00 am)

Interested in walking outdoors with a friendly bunch of people twice a month? Join us this Wednesday for an easy two-mile, paved walk at Alto Park (1121 Alto St), near the tennis courts and the Mary Esther Senior Center. Bring water, a snack, sunscreen, hat, and a walking stick (if needed). Next walk is May 30. Barbara Christiano (Figaro@wcvr.com, 802-792-3424), Diane Darby (ddarbysfm@gmail.com, 816-260-0127)

What Are Biblical Values? – Pretty Good Guys

Wednesday, May 13 – 10:30 am to 12:00 noon

Through spring, the Pretty Good Guys invites all men to join in a study of "What Are Biblical Values?" by Yale professor John Collins. Books for purchase in the Community Room.

Church Family Night! Friday, May 15 at Liggettville Adventure Center - Santa Fe Place Mall food court 6-8 pm

Come grab a bite to eat and let the kids do the indoor ropes and climbing walls (not required). Relax and hang out together. Don't have kids? Come anyway! All are welcome. Visit: liggettville.com/santa-fe-place for info about pricing and more.

Weekly Food Drive for The Food Depot

Help Santa Fe children as they head into the summer by donating non-perishable food for the Food Depot. Public school have "Food Pantries" that parents, youth, and children can use for weekends and summertime when school isn't in session.

Love in Action Arts Camp – United Church – June 15-19 (9:00 to 3:00)

Looking for a fun and valuable day camp for elementary-age children? Sign up for United's *Love in Action Arts Camp*! **The cost is \$125 per camper for the entire week and includes lunch and snacks.** (Scholarships also available.) Children will explore kindness, belonging, and caring for the earth through biblical stories, music, art, drama, photography, cooking, and more! We have a robust and talented group of leaders for this camp. Please go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to register! Questions? Please contact Director of Family Ministry Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com).

First We Bombed New Mexico – Saturday, May 16 – Museum of Indian Arts and Culture

The award-winning documentary about the decades-long impact on New Mexico communities, farms, and families of the Trinity Atom Bomb Test will be at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm; tickets: \$7. Advance purchase recommended: (505) 476-1269.

