

PRAYERS FOR A SEASON OF BLESSINGS, GRADUATIONS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

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.)

For All Young Ones (and the rest of us, too)

God of the ages, be there for our children,
as you were for our ancestors,
a refuge and strength.
Help them to turn to You, O God,
for guidance during these troubled times.
Give them and us strength for the weeks ahead.

Be their Still Waters
when they are surrounded by fear and anxiety.

Be their Rock, to Whom they can turn
and give them worry and fears.

Be their Shelter.
Guide their steps
and keep them safe. Amen.

A Prayer for Our Church (Because it's our 46th 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 the Seasons of Life

*When I stand before God at the end of my life,
I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left,
and could say, 'I used everything you gave me'.*

Erma Bombeck, Author and Humorist

Monthly publication

United Church of Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

May 2026

**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,

"The wonderful thing about praying," wrote Corrie Ten Boom, "is that you leave a world of not being able to do something, and enter God's realm where everything is possible." She continued, "God specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for God's almighty power. Nothing is too small for God's love."

Ten Boom knew first-hand about living in a world in which she couldn't do even the one thing most important to her—save her loved ones and neighbors from death at the hands of the Nazis. When the Germans invaded her Dutch homeland in 1940, she and her family sheltered both Jews and persons with disabilities in their home (only a block from the police station) for four years. They provided stolen ration cards for those in need and worked with the Dutch Resistance to smuggle Jews and others to safety.

But then a Dutch informant told the Nazis of the Ten Boom's "hiding place," and the whole family was arrested. Corrie's father died a few days later in prison. Corrie and her sister Betsie were eventually sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp, a labor Camp for women, where Betsie also died. By the end of the war, Corrie and a nephew were the only survivors of the extended Ten Boom family.

When Corrie Ten Boom described prayer as entering "God's realm where everything is possible," she wasn't engaging in some ethereal fantasy. Instead, she was affirming the depth and breadth of God's imagination and love. For her, prayer wasn't an escape from this world, but a reminder, in words attributed to her sister, "there is no pit so deep that God's love doesn't go deeper."

That reminder echoes all through Scripture, from old Sarah's laughter at nothing being impossible for God to the besieged Job's cry "I know that my Advocate lives" to the apostle Paul's affirmation that there is nothing—no death, no life, no angels, no rulers, things present nor things to come, nothing in all creation, that can separate us from God's love. And, I would add, nothing can separate us from God's imagination—be it for our own lives or for this world.


Remembering God as the "Creator of Possibilities" is important in this time, when our leaders believe that war is the only possible relationship among nations and that the only possible purpose of human life is to amass one's financial fortune. Like Corrie Ten Boom, our faith calls us to expand our vision to see the possibility of peace, to know the possibility of knowing the person of a different race or religion as a beloved child of God and our beloved neighbor.

Prayer opens us to God's possibilities. It can also give us the courage and hope we need to help make those possibilities a reality, even in our time.

In his book, *The Educated Imagination*, literary critic Northrop Frye affirmed that "art begins as soon as 'I don't like this' turns into 'this is not the way I could imagine it.'"

More often than not, prayer begins in the same way.

Blessings,



Worship in May

MANY WAYS TO NEW LIFE

Worship in Eastertide and Pentecost

For the women who followed Jesus, finding his tomb empty was their first inkling of the Resurrection. Then they met the Risen Christ as they ran to tell the men. In turn, the disciples experienced the Risen Christ in multiple ways—from his wounds to the breaking of the bread and cooking them breakfast. In worship this month, we share those experiences as we give thanks for the journeys of our youth, share bread and cup, welcome Rabbi Martin Levy, and celebrate not one but two Pentecosts! Invite a friend and join in!



***The Many-Roomed One* | 5th Easter – May 3**

On the night before his death, Jesus spoke of God’s house having “many rooms.” (John 14:1-14) One way to read his promise is that God has room enough for everyone. It can also be an affirmation of many experiences of this mystery called God. Either way, it’s a great text for a Sunday when we share Communion in both

***Blessed by The Spirit, Sent by the Spirit* Celebration of the Journeys of Our Youth – May 10**

Also on the last night, Jesus told his followers that they would not be left orphaned or alone, but that God would send the Spirit to help them remember his teachings and to bring them peace. Then Jesus said to them, “Rise and let us go”—into that terrible night. But he also promised them that even without his physical presence, their lives would go on and God’s Spirit would always be with them. (John 14:25-31) A powerful promise for the Sunday we celebrate the multiple journeys of United’s youth.



***Renewing the Covenant* | 7th Sunday of Easter – May 17**

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 what it means to be covenant with God, neighbor and creation. The giving of the covenant in the Book of Exodus (19:1-19, 20:1-14) serves as our guide.



***To Dream Dreams and See Visions* | Memorial Day Sunday and Pentecost Sunday (Wear Red!) – May 24**

When God’s Spirit is poured out upon all kinds of people gathered for Pentecost, everyone starts praising God in their own languages—and everyone understands. Some skeptics think the crowd is drunk, but Peter—usually so tongue-tied—proclaims they’re fulfilling the Prophet Joel’s vision of Spirit-filled dreams and visions for this world. (Acts 2:1-21) It’s a powerful story the day before Memorial Day and a much-needed vision for our time. We welcome Rev. Ben Larzelere as guest preacher.



***A Spirit-filled Creation* | A Multicolored Pentecost! – May 31**

Tongues of fire are one symbol of God’s Spirit, but so are water, wind, doves, light, and other gifts of the created world. We continue our celebration of God’s spirit being poured out on this whole world as we give thanks for a Spirit-filled Creation.

Music

Michelle Schumann, Director of Music / Pianist

In May, we celebrate the many gifts of our musical congregation! This month is the last regular month for the Sanctuary Choir, as they go on “summer break” beginning in June (but start the month with the summer “Drop-in Choir” June 7).

Big accolades to the Choir and Director André, for leading us through Lent and Eastertide. The music (and musicianship!) was captivating and set the tone.

Also, many thanks to our sweet Children’s Choir, organized and led by Family Minister Dana, along with percussionist David Darby, for bringing their spirit of joy and collaboration to make the Easter service so special. Kudos also to the multi-talented Jack and Sasha Smucker, and Jace Gordon (and mom Angela!), who played wonderfully the Sunday after Easter.

May continues to bring beautiful musical moments, including Mozart’s “Laudate Dominum” featuring the Sanctuary Choir and Santa Fe Soprano extraordinaire, Jennifer Perez, on May 3. Anthems by John Rutter, Thomas Tallis, and Moses Hogan round out the musical offerings as we make our way to Pentecost. It will be a wonderful end to the choir season, and we can’t wait to share it with you all!

Musically yours,
Michelle



TWO opportunities for Families to come together! (Fellowship and Food!)

Friday, May 15 at Liggettville Adventure Center - Santa Fe Place Mall food court. 6-8 p.m. Come grab a bite to eat and let the kids do the indoor ropes and climbing walls. Relax and hang out together. Activities for children of all ages.

Friday Fun Night! (May 29) – All ages welcome! (at church) – 5:30-7:30 pm – We’ll make “tongues of fire” Pentecost cupcakes (remember those?) for the Inter-generational Pentecost service, enjoy a simple supper, and play games! Details to follow.

Children & Youth

Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministry

Confirmation and Journey to Adulthood Celebration

Sunday, May 10—10:00 am service

Last September, our Initiates and Confirmands began a journey of exploration of faith. They’ve swung from ropes, served as worship leaders, met with mentors to exchange stories of faith and belonging, and engaged in meaningful conversations about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the role of the church. On **Sunday, May 10**, the Confirmands/Initiates and all of United junior and senior high youth will be celebrated in a special service for their involvement, however that has been, as we give thanks for their journey to adulthood. Some of our youths have decided to be confirmed and join the church. For our graduating seniors, we’ll also celebrate their passage into adulthood.

Kids United “Care for Creation” in May

Last May, the children (and several adult facilitators) prepared soil with pounds of compost and hundreds of earthworms. Throughout the summer and early fall, our Children’s Garden yielded squash, tomatoes, pepper, and cucumbers for the Food Depot (and pollinators, too!) We’re gearing up to do it all again! As part of our commitment to “care for creation,” the kids will play and pray in the dirt once again! Also coming this summer...***Kids United Music!*** More info later.

‘Love in Action’ Arts Camp is coming soon!

**(Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19
9:00 am to 3:00 pm)**

It’s not too late to sign up!

Arts Camp Leaders Meeting

Sunday, May 3 (11:15 am)

Thank you to the many volunteers who are teaching, helping, donating, and planning this program. On Sunday, May 3, we’ll have a meeting after the 10:00 service to review schedules and specifics.

Graduation Sunday -- May 17

Join in the 10:00 service as we recognize United’s young people who are graduating from 6th grade, 8th grade, high school, and college. Also please let us know if you have a family member graduating this spring that you’d like to be recognized, too!



Care and Concern

Prayer of Thanks for:

- All who made the journey of **Holy Week and Easter Sunday** so powerful, beautiful, honest and hopeful—including all the youth and adult readers and reflectors, the Sacred Space, Congregational Care, Parish Life, Discipleship Development, and Children's/Youth Ministry Teams; Sanctuary and Children's Choirs, Creation Care and Livestream volunteers, all who helped "get the word out" via ads, banners, and Facebook/Instagram posts; the entire Church staff, and **all of you who** joined in or tuned in.
- The 50+ United friends and members who joined in the "No Kings" march the day before Palm Sunday.
- The new life of **Delfine Scott Arnold** (the new baby of Talitha Arnold's nephew Scott and niece-in-law Ling).

Congratulations and Blessings for United's Graduates: (let us know if you have names to add)

- **6th grade: Leo Joyce Brown** (Turquoise Trail), **Althea Pak** (Atalaya, started 7th grade early), **Steven Zappe** (Sun Mountain Community School)
- **8th grade: Bonnie Bannerman** (El Dorado Community School)
- **High School: Weston Puglisi** (Master's Program); **Derek Darby** (Santa Fe High); **Bailey Gordon** (St. Michael's); **Sasha Smucker and Luke Rand** (Santa Fe Prep)
- **College: M. Kingston** (Carleton College)

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- **Janyth and Ferrol Fell**, following the unexpected death of their daughter **Paula; Ron and Lee Evenson**, as Ron has come under hospice care; **Rev. Roger Knapp**, also under hospice; **Nanette Farrelly**, preparing for a 9-hour lumbar fusion surgery at LA's Cedar Sinai on May 1; **the family of Rev. Kathleen Jimenez**, whose Memorial Service is May 2.
- **John Walker**, as he prepares to move from his house of many years to Las Soleras Senior Living Center.
- Persons dealing with cancer and those who love and care for them: **Greg Gaertner, Diane Bethune's brother Jeffery**, and others. Persons with ongoing health issues: **Leonard Stovall, Mary Deane Lynn, Helen McCabe, Carol Ingells, Brooke Roberts, Cynde Christe**, and others.
- Persons in assisted living: **Sylvia Ortega, Jim Mills** (Kingston); **Ray & Nancy Lutz** (Legacy); **Ann Noss** (El Castillo); **Rev. Christine Vogel** and **Linda Knapp** (Montecito); **JoAnn Bolleter's mother**.
- Persons living with Parkinson's or other neurological conditions (**Msgr. Jerome Martinez**, and others);
- Individuals and families dealing with mental health 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)
- Persons with families in other countries: **Blanca Surgeon** (Honduras), **Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz** (El Salvador), **Joohee Rand** (Korea), **John Walker** (Scotland), **Avril Ekstrand** (Ireland), **Kim Zeilik** (son in Spain); **Leslie Fagre and Eric Poppele** (Jasper and family in England); **the Darby Family** (Makayla in Prague), **Larry and Nyla Rasmussen** (daughter-in-law's family in Colombia); **Dana and David Cagle** (daughter in Italy).
- The people—especially immigrants and persons of color—of **Santa Fe** and other cities and towns dealing with ICE occupations and raids.
- Continued prayers for the people of **Iran, Gaza and the rest of the Middle East; Venezuela, Nigeria, Sudan, Ukraine, Central America**, and other places impacted by war; refugees who have fled their homes in war zones; people seeking asylum from violence; policymakers who determine their fate.
- Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation.
- Prayers of care and commitment for those with major **increases in health care costs or reduction of support from SNAP, USAID, Medicaid or Medicare**, or who are unhoused or are persons of color, LGBTQI+ or female.

Prayer Chain Keeps Others in Prayer	Congregational Care for May:
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)	On Call: Cheryl Haskin: (503) 351-6561
	Food: Leslie Fagre: (505) 570-0273

Outreach

LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, CREATION

Outreach Opportunities – Thank you!

Go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe NM 87505.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Raises Over \$3,300

Thanks to the generosity of United members and friends, we've raised \$3,321 so far for One Great Hour of Sharing (the United Church of Christ yearly appeal to support refugee resettlement, disaster relief, food and small farm programs globally and in the U.S.). It's never too late to care for our neighbors, so if you haven't had a chance to donate yet, please go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org, memo: OGHS or bring your offering to church. Thank you!

LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR

United's Shelter Supper Ministries

Provide supper for guests of St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Family Shelter. Volunteer or donate financially (memo: shelter meals). Coordinators: Cathy Garrett and Sheree Whitney. Thank you!

- **Fri., May 15 – 9:30 am Chop & Grate; 1:00 pm** Deliver food to shelters.
- You can also make meatloaf at home to bring to United prior to delivery (12 loaves needed).

Supporting Our Diné/Navajo Brothers and Sisters

Your financial support for United's partner, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, in Fort Defiance, AZ underwrites basic supplies for families, Youth Traditional Garden, and Food Bank.

Your Food Depot Donations Feed Hungry Kids

To help Santa Fe children in the final days of school and heading into the summer, we invite your donations of non-perishable food for the Food Depot. Every public school has their own "Food Pantry" that parents, youth, and children can use for weekends and summertime when school isn't in session.

Build a Bridge, Not a Wall Cards for Sale Benefit Immigrants and Refugees

United Church offers greeting cards of the beautiful "Mary of the Bridge" bulto created by Northern New Mexico artists Doreen Martinez and the late Ronald Martinez. 10 cards/\$15; 5 cards/\$8. Great for any occasion.

LOVE GOD, LOVE CREATION

Santa Fe River Cleanup

Saturday, May 9 (8:30-10:00 am)

Join us to care for our corner of Creation. Meet where Closson St. ends at the river. We provide 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!

Reunity Resources turns compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Pick up compostable bags at church (NO standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, bring back to put in green bin behind out the church. Thanks!

Care for Creation and Offset Your Carbon Use

United's "Carbon Offset Program" helps plant trees and change policies to address climate change. Just track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to our partners SF Watershed Assoc. and NM Interfaith Power and Light. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Adult Faith Formation

ADULT FORUMS — Sundays at 11:15 am

The Climate:

Social, Material, Moral-Spiritual

Sunday Forum Series:

April 26, May 3, May 10

Ethicist Larry Rasmussen

More than Earth's physical climate is changing. So, too, is the social and moral-spiritual context and climate. This 3-Sunday series, led by Environmental Ethicist Larry Rasmussen, addresses where we are and how we got here, as well as what our constructive responses might be. (A handout will be provided at the first meeting with key summaries and discussion materials, suggested readings, etc.)

The Material (or Planetary) Climate **(April 26)**

"Climate change" is a symptom of more far-reaching, and more consequential, changes. Most neglected, and most important (for New Mexico!), are changes to and in the oceans.



The Social and Moral-Spiritual Climate **(May 3)**

What happens to the planetary climate intimately impacts society, and vice versa. This week, our attention goes to the moral-spiritual challenges to Christianity. They are deep, since they reach back to the nation's founding and now find a new intensity and influence in the Christian nationalism of office-holders Hegseth, Vought (Project 25), Mike Johnson, and Sen. Josh Hawley.

The Climate at This Moment (May 10)

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.

Many thanks to Larry Rasmussen for offering this informative and action-provoking series!

(Sunday Forums, continued)

Jewish in America 2026 (May 17)

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.

VIDA (Volunteers for Immigrants in Detention - Albuquerque)

May 24

Kelly McCloskey-Romero, Volunteer Coordinator for VIDA, presents an update of the organization's current work in New Mexico, especially in light of the new state law, the Immigrant Safety Act.

Burritos, Music, New Friends

May 31

Stay after the 10:00 service for a Breakfast Burrito Brunch and an offering of live folk music!

GROUPS AND GATHERINGS

- **Wednesday Women (10:00 a.m. May 6 and 20):** *Whiskey Tender*, with author Deborah Jackson Taffa on May 6.
- **Pretty Good Guys (10:30 am May 13 and 27):** *What are Biblical Values?* (by Prof. John Collins).
- **"Hope and Resilience" Study Group** (Thursdays, 8:00 am via zoom).



Get to Know Santa Fe, Get to Know New Mexico

Summer Field Trips around our city and state
This summer, United will offer a number of half-day and/or one-day field trips to explore Santa Fe and other parts of New Mexico. It's a way to learn about both the history and current reality of what is a new home for many of us. Stay tuned for more information – and also let Talitha Arnold know you're interested in such explorations.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Mailing Date - April 21, 2026

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WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE

The United Church of Santa Fe invites you to join us as we grow in faith and hope. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, a progressive and inclusive Christian tradition that emphasizes freedom of thought and belief as well as a commitment to “Love God, Neighbor, and Creation.” As Christians, we are many individual members, each with different gifts to offer and contributions to make. We are also one body in Christ, members of one another.



As an expression of the practice and conviction of this congregation, we declare ourselves to be an “open and affirming church,” welcoming people who share a faith journey with Christ and who share with us the covenant that binds us together regardless of age, gender, race and ethnic background, mental or physical disability, or sexual orientation. We welcome you!

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED

United Church is also United (in-person and online) Church! We offer the **10:00 am Sunday service in-person and also livestreamed online** (access it on United’s website: unitedchurchofsantafe.org). **We also offer an 8:30 am Contemplative Communion Service.** For more information about United’s programs, please call 505-988-3295, send an email to unitedchurchsf@gmail.com, go to our website. Thank you!