

A SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT
10th Sunday of Pentecost

August 2, 2026 – 10:00 A.M.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

For Reflection

One thing about spiritual people: we never give up. We can bend and we can even break, but we never stop. We are the perpetual motion of hope. Our resilience spans centuries. Our vision reaches beyond the stars. We are citizens of a different reality, a place where people never stop loving, and therefore, never stop moving toward the light.

Choctaw Elder and Episcopal Bishop Steven Charleston

WE GATHER

(As the Prelude starts, please enter a time of silent reflection and prayer. Also, please turn off your cell phone. Thank you.)

Prelude

Aria from D Major Partita
Break Thou the Bread of Life

J.S. Bach
William Sherwin

*Introit

Circle of Life (2x)

Marty Haugen

***One great circle of life, living circle of love, plants and trees, seas and rivers, and the blessed sky above,
Creatures great, creatures small, one the web that weaves us all, in the circle of life.***

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Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Spirit of Peace, Hope, and Love

Sharing God's Spirit

May the Spirit be with you!

*Regathering and Welcoming Visitors

Circle of Life (1x)

Marty Haugen

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Omer Westendorf/Robert Kreutz

The Call to Worship (congregation in bold)

People of God, look around and see. See the faces of those we know and love—neighbors and friends, a community of kindred hearts. *Gente de Dios, miren y vean.*

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See the faces of those we hardly know—strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See all the images of God assembled here.

In me, in you, in each of us, God's spirit shines for all to see.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

Come and see God in all the people of God. Let us worship together.

*Hymn

349

I Come with Joy (vss. 1-4)

Brian Wren/Dove of Peace

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Eternal One,

Silence from whom our words come;

Questioner from whom our questions arise;

Lover of whom all our loves are hints;

Disturber in whom alone we find our rest;

Mystery in whose depths

we find healing and ourselves;

Enfold us now in your presence;

restore to us your peace;

renew us through your power;

and ground us in your grace. Amen.

In a Time of Silent Prayer and Assurance of Grace



(During the song, children in grades K-5 are invited forward for a blessing then go to Kids United with Family Minister Dana Bender for music, prayer, and stories. Nursery care is also available throughout the service in the Nurture Center.)

Blessing of the Children

WE ENGAGE

A Desert Story from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard [of John's death], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me."

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Hymn 343

Jesus Took the Bread

Ruth Duck/New Hope

(1st verse—solo; Congregation joins on v. 2)

Sermon

A Desert Feast

Silence

Musical Response 343

Jesus Took the Bread

Ruth Duck/New Hope

(All join on vss. 3 & 4)

WE RESPOND

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Isaac Watts/arr. Selamit Joseph

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing Communion

Remembering the Story

Welcoming One Another and Giving Thanks to God

Brothers and sisters, this is the joyful feast of the people of God. At this table, God invites us to receive new life and abundant love.

We come to be renewed by God's spirit and transformed by God's love.

Out of love, God called the world into being. Out of love, God formed us from the dust of the earth.

And with love, God transforms ordinary bread, a common cup, and our lives into gifts of new life.

Therefore let us keep this feast. Let us welcome and love one another, as God welcomes and loves us.

The Prayer of Blessing (*We conclude with the Lord's Prayer. Please pray any version.*)

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Solo

Panis Angelicus

César Franck

Congregational Hymn 332

As We Gather at Your Table

Carl P. Daw/Beach Spring

(All are welcome to share in Communion. As your section is called, please come down the designated aisle, please come forward to receive the bread or a nongluten wafer. Then either dip the bread into the chalice or take one of the individual cups and return to your seat by the next aisle. Again, all are welcome!)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, you called us from our individual lives to share this feast together. We thank you for that call and for this time of communion with you and with one another. As we go out into your world, remind us always that you go with us. Help us remember that it is your deep love that empowers us to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.” Amen.

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 76

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

The Ash Grove

*Blessings for the Journey

Luke Rand

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison

Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Kyrie eleison.

Christ eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. Your presence enriches the experience of us all. We also invite you to join in our education and service offerings in the week ahead. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Music Director/Pianist; Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministries; Luke Rand, Liturgist; Javier Ortiz, Choral Scholar Soloist. You were greeted by Ministers of Hospitality Rosemary Thompson, Louise Cavatta, Diane Darby, and Pam Hyde; and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeaut. Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez livestreams the service. At the end of the service, we also bless United member Luke Rand as he heads for his freshman year at Cornell University in New York.

Kids United – Singing through the Summer!

Children join Director of Family Ministries, Dana Bender, as they sing our way through the summer—exploring prayer and our love for God, Neighbor, and Creation through music (and also tending the Children's Garden). Nurture Center care for infants through Kinders offered by Tracy Church and Maria Navarette.

Adult Forums – Two Opportunities (11:15)

Dedication of the Revitalized Nurture Center

Check out our revitalized Nurture Center and join in a blessing for its use and for the children who will experience God's love within its walls. Thanks to Family Ministry Director Dana Bender and volunteers Tracy and Ed Church, the Nurture Center is spruced up for our youngest congregants!

Write Letters to Advocate for Immigrants

The Immigration Task Force invites you to join in a letter-writing forum, focused on urging our Congressional Representatives and national administration to close immigrant detention centers in our state and elsewhere and to work for actual immigration reform.

What Does the Bible Really Say about Forgiveness? – Zoom Study Group
Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:00 am (MDT) – To register, email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Santa Fe River Cleanup – Saturday, August 8 (8:30-10:00 am)

Join us to care for our corner of Creation. Meet at where Closson St. ends at the Santa Fe 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!

Adult Forum – Next Sunday, August 9 – *Opportunities and Challenges: New Mexico’s Public Schools*

United member Seana Flanagan is Managing Director of the New Mexico Public Education Department—i.e., the right-hand person to Secretary of Education Mariana Padilla. She knows first-hand the challenges—and opportunities—facing students, educators, and schools across the state. She’ll offer a “behind-the-headlines” look.

Blessing of Students and Educators – Next Sunday, August 9

On Sunday, August 9, we’ll bless all students and educators (teachers, administrators, counselors, etc.) in both the 8:30 and 10:00 services! This is a wonderful time to wipe the slate clean (do kids know what a ‘slate’ is??) and set new goals for the new year! It’s an exciting time and meaningful service. Come one and all!

Weekly Food Drive for The Food Depot

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.

Choral Scholars, Drop-in Choir, and Lots More Musically This Summer at United

We finish out the summer with:

- The **Drop-In Choir**, directed by **André García-Nuthmann**, next Sunday, **August 9**. All singers welcome to come at 9:00 to rehearse and offer an anthem in the 10:00 service. If you’d like to join, please let André know (unitedchurch.andregn@gmail.com).
- On **August 16**, we welcome back **LaVonne Yazzie**, Navajo/Diné singer and Cantor for Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Albuquerque and on August 23, it’s Choral Scholar **Heather Lacy**.
- **August 30**, Pianist/Music Director Michelle Schumann offers special piano music.

Mark your calendars and bring friends!

Food Depot Helps Address Food Insecurity – KSFR’s Forum (101.1) – This Monday at 6:00 pm.

Rev. Talitha Arnold and cohost Jim Falk interview staff of the Santa Fe Food Depot that helps feed thousands of families, children, grandparents raising grandchildren, and others throughout Northern New Mexico. Learn more this Monday by tuning into KSFR’s “Forum” at 6:00 pm. Rebroadcast Wednesday at 4:00 pm and on KSFR’s website.

Donations for Consuelo’s Place and Casa Familia

We invite your contributions, through the Faith Coalition for Immigration, for Consuelo’s Place (an emergency shelter) and Casa Familia (for women and children). Cleaning supplies needed for both shelters include laundry detergent, toilet paper, trash bags. Casa Familia also needs women’s undergarments, shampoo, personal hygiene items, diapers. ¡Con mil gracias!

United Church Supports Venezuelan Earthquake Relief

In the wake of the devastating earthquake, families and communities are in urgent need of our help to meet daily needs for food, clean water, shelter, and support to begin recovery. All donations for earthquake relief to United Church of Santa Fe go directly to Church World Service for this work. Please bring/send checks made out to United Church (memo: Earthquake Relief) or through United’s website: unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

Love Creation!

United’s Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change

Track car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and the *Santa Fe Watershed Association* for their environmental advocacy and hands-on care for God’s good earth and generations yet to come. (\$8/100 miles driven; \$8/3 hours in the air). Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Compost Collection – It’s a Miracle! (And it helps mitigate climate change.)

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Two ways you can help: 1.) Please use the compost containers in the Community Room and education rooms for your coffee cups, napkins, or plates from the Fellowship Time or church meals. They’re all compostable. 2.) Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and then put in green bin in back of the church.

Two Who Made a Difference – United Church Endowment

In 2025, United Church received an unexpected gift from the estate of Dilys Evans and Sheila Paterson who were active members since the early 2000’s until health issues kept them from coming. Sheila served on the Church Council. Dilys, a renowned children’s book publisher, was active with children and youth.

They were married twice at the United Church – once “illegally” in 2005 and then again in 2014 after New Mexico allowed same-gender marriages.

Sheila died several years ago, and Dilys passed away in 2024. We had no idea the church was in their will, but their bequest made a difference and ensures United will continue to invest in family, children’s and youth ministry.

If you have already United in your will or estate planning, please let us know. If you’d like to include United, please let us know that, too.

Thank you from United’s Endowment Committee: Frank Wilbanks, Chair; David Cagle, Co-Chair, Caroline Burnett, Trustee; Sam Elkind, Moderator; Bob Anshles, At-large; Sarah Sawtell, Treasurer; Rev. Talitha Arnold (ex-officio).