

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

 May 2022

For All People in All Places

God of the ages, be there for the world's children,
 the world's elders, and everyone in between,
 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 their worries and fears.

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

Prayers for Eastertide

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.)

And a Season of . . .

Initiation to Adulthood

(May 15)

May my ears be open to hear the voice of God,
 May my eyes be open to see the light of Christ,
 May my lips speak words of truth.

May my shoulders bear the yoke of Christ,
 May my heart be filled with faith,
 And may my feet follow in the way God has prepared for me.

For Children (and the rest of us) at the Start of Summer!

Long warm days...
 The pace of life slows...
 A time for picnics and rest in the shade...

Lord,
 help your child (name) to rest a while in the cooling shade of your presence.
 Slow down their restless hearts,
 and fill them with gentle compassion for all your people. Amen.

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**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 Bulgarians and Belarussians call it "The Great Day." The Croats and Armenians say it "Resurrection." The Hungarian and Estonian words for it mean "buying meat." In many cultures, it's some variation of Pasque (Pascua in Spanish), deriving from the Hebrew "Pescha," or Passover.

"It" is Easter—a name that only started being used in the 8th century. The English title for the day apparently derives from "Eostre," the Teutonic goddess of fertility—whose symbol was the rabbit (as in "multiply like bunnies").

But it's the Koreans, who call it "Resurrection Season" and the Latvians and Lithuanians who name it "The Great Days" (no singular exists) who get it right.

By any name, Easter/Pascua is a season, not just one day but 50 days of feasting and celebrating new life, 10 days longer than Lent.

This Eastertide at the United Church of Santa Fe, we're extending the season of new life in some special ways. On the first Sunday of May (May 1), we give thanks for the music ministry of Jacquelyn Helin, stepping down after 17 years as United's Music Director and Pianist par excellence. She has played for Sunday services and memorial services, Children's Sundays and Easter Sundays, Christmas Eve and on the Eve of an Election. Her music, be that of J.S. Bach or Leonard Cohen, has blessed us abundantly, and we will give abundant thanks that Sunday. We will also wish her Godspeed for the next stage of her journey and pray God's blessing on her, wherever that journey may lead.

And we will pray for God's guidance for our church community to continue to build on the musical foundation Jacquie has helped United lay. It promises to be a day of celebration, remembrances, joy, and probably more than a few tears. As with any important relationship when it changes, it wouldn't hurt so much if it hadn't meant so much. But our trust is in the One who holds all our tears and our laughter, our memories and our future. I hope you'll plan to join in on May 1.

Two weeks later, we share another time of passage in the "Rite of Initiation to Adulthood" for six United youth. On May 15, the young people will come forward to "leave their childhoods behind," receive the laying on of hands and blessings, and be welcomed officially into adult life and, for those who chose, as adult members of the congregation. The Initiation Service is a powerful experience, not only for the young people and their families, but for the whole church. Your support and participation in the service is important.

The other three Sundays of May will be equally filled with new life and promise. Ten days longer than Lent, the season of Eastertide reminds us time and again of God's intention for us and all creation—new life, new hope, and abiding presence wherever the journey takes us. Plan to share in that new life this month at United!

Blessings,



Worship in May

For All that Has Been—Thanks!

For All that Will Be – Yes!

Worship in Eastertide

“For all that has been—thanks! For all that will be—Yes!” This quote from Dag Hammarskjöld describes worship with United during the 50 days of Eastertide. We look back to give thanks for so many gifts of life and hope God has given us, and we look ahead with faith in God’s future.

Clothed with Joy:

Thanksgiving for a Ministry of Music

May 1 (3rd Easter)

“You have turned my mourning into dancing,” wrote the composer of Psalm 30, “you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.” Sacred music covers the whole human experience, and for 17 years, Music Director and Pianist Jacquelyn Helin has blessed our congregation with such music, beautifully and deeply offered. She has been an important part of our leadership team and the congregation. As she steps down from that ministry, we give thanks and wish her Godspeed.



A New Heaven, A New Earth

May 15 (5th Easter and Initiation Sunday)

United’s “Initiation to Adulthood” program for early adolescents has been central to our youth ministry for many years, with the goal of helping young people navigate the journey from childhood to adulthood. The past two pandemic years continually upended our Initiates’ lives and that ministry. Yet their journey into adulthood continued, even if it wasn’t the journey we’d anticipated. This Sunday, our Initiates share their experience of the pandemic’s odd rite of passage. What have they learned? What or who helped them navigate? How did they experience God’s hope or love? The scripture passage is John’s vision of a “new heaven and a new earth.” What are our Initiates’ visions?

Saints, Widows, Angels, Shepherds

May 8 (4th Easter and Mother’s Day)

The readings for the 4th Sunday of Easter include diverse snapshots of the early Christian congregations, from “saints and widows” (Acts 9:36-43) to shepherds and sheep (Psalm 23; John 10:22-30) to angels and people of “all tribes and languages.” (Revelation 7:9-17). Great texts for the secular holiday of Mother’s Day, too!



Welcoming and Welcomed

May 22 (6th Easter)

The Apostle Paul once envisioned the people of Macedonia (northern Greece) imploring him to come help them. (Acts 16:9-15) When he got to the main city of Philippi, a merchant woman named Lydia welcomed him and the new Christian faith. The new church they established together had a special place in Paul’s heart, and the Philippians’ friendship sustained him throughout the hardships of his wide-ranging ministry. Never underestimate the power of hospitality and welcome.

The Ones We Remember

May 29 (7th Easter and Memorial Day)

Lots of different people became part of the United Church of Philippi—a rich merchant woman, a formerly enslaved girl, a prison guard and his family. Together they created a faith community that lasted for centuries, strengthening the faith of Paul and all who came after him. Who has helped us on our journeys of life and faith? How do we remember them?

Music Notes

For my last music column, I want to say what a joy it has been to be United's Music Director and Pianist for the past 17 years and to thank all of you for being the music-loving congregation you are. Little did I know when I joined United's staff, what a large part of my life this congregation would become and how blessed I have been to be a part of it!

As I leave to start the next chapter of my life, I know you are in good hands as Brad Ellingboe steps into the position as Music Director. He has been a wonderful colleague, and I will miss his humor, musicianship, and our work together. He's also a first-rate choral conductor! I will miss the choirs and the deep commitment they bring to United's music ministry. Thank you all! Above all I will miss the United community, led by Talitha, and the wonderful presence you are in Santa Fe and beyond. You will be in my heart as you move into this next phase of United's life. I know you will continue to make a positive difference in this world and be a force for good. Blessings!

Jacquelyn



As we transition from Jacquie's last Sunday on May 1, and the beginning of my tenure as Director of Music, I want to begin by thanking her for 17 years of brilliant musicianship devoted to the congregation of the United Church and to Santa Fe at large. She will be missed—not least by me—for her warmth, care, and humor as a colleague and great skill as a musician!

The choir will continue to sing all of May and into the first Sunday of June, which is Pentecost. After that we'll go to the summer schedule of Drop-In choirs in June, July and August. And God willing, in the fall we'll return to a more normal schedule of rehearsing and singing as we did on those long-ago days before the pandemic.

In the meantime, we'll be blessed to have Dr. Mary Ann Ybarra at the piano, the wonderful collaborative pianist for my Albuquerque ensemble, *Coro Lux*. We have a "deep bench" and plenty of musical assets at United, so we'll continue praising God with hearts and minds and voices and in as excellent a way as we know how.

Brad



SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY THROUGH MAY

We'll explore stories of the new life Jesus' disciples and the women experienced. We'll also offer new life to others with Kits for Ukraine and caring for God's creation. Join in! And bring a friend!

Youth Initiates' "Rite of Passage to Adulthood"

How or where have you experienced God's presence in the past two years? How have you been able to share something of God's love—or beauty or hope—with others? Our six Youth Initiates explore these questions with their Mentors between now and their "Rite of Initiation to Adulthood" (Sunday, May 15).

YOUNG ADVENTURERS START FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Middle Youth will connect this spring by simply having fun and being together for activities like bowling, pizza, movies, etc. Stay tuned and join in!

STAFF POSITION FOR ½-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

If you know of well-qualified people with a deep love for kids and a strong background in education and the Christian faith, please contact Rev. Talitha Arnold or Children/Youth Ministry Chair Karen Wilbanks.

Family Supper Bag – May 20

United provides a monthly take-home supper to give hard-working parents a break and feed the bodies and souls of both kids and parents. If you'd like to help by cooking or shopping, please contact Karen Wilbanks.

Pray-ers for United's Children and Youth

Will you pray daily for a child in our congregation? Then join our Prayer-Child program to be paired with a United child or youth. Contact Gail Ansheles (608-335-4774) to join in!



**THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE
STARTS MID-JUNE (5:30 to 7:30)
Supper, games, activities, music!
Spread the word and plan to join in!**



CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks for:

- > **Everyone who made the journey of Holy Week and Easter such a powerful experience: Sacred Space Team**, arranging and adorning the Sanctuary; **Congregational Care Team** taking Easter flowers to United members and friends around Santa Fe; **Chair Ministers and Welcomers**, who made sure there was room for everyone outside; **Musicians**, who blessed us with their playing, singing, and composing; **Liturgists**, who brought God’s word; **Office administrators** for creating bulletins, emails, and newsletters to keep us connected; **Videographers and Editors** who provided inspiration for adults, youth, and children; **Children and Youth Ministry volunteers—and the kids themselves**—for creating “Kits for Ukraine” and joining in United We Run; **Karen Wilbanks, Avril Ekstrand, and Steve Hamilton**, and the Children’s/Youth Team, Immigration Refugee Task Force, and Pretty Good Guys, all of whom pitched in to make United We run a success; **and everyone who brought new life in so many ways to so many people!**

Prayers of New Life for:


- > The new members who “owned the covenant” and joined United on Sunday, April 24: **Char and Bruce Cebell, Candy and Bill Elkjer, Katherine Freeman and Marilyn Gardner, Laura and John Johnson, Diane Johnston, Kate Murphy, Diana Smith, Carolyn and Royce Stewart, Kathleen Wilson;**
- > **All students, teachers, administrators, and school staffs**, as they head for the school-year finish line;
- > Blessings and congratulations to **Katie Bickley**, graduating from Yale Divinity School with her Master of Arts in Religion;
- > **Anne Hillerman**, celebrating the launch of *The Sacred Bridge*, her latest in the Bernadette Manuelito/Jim Chee/Joe Leaphorn series.

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- > **Charlene Hyle and her family**, following the memorial service for her sister Lizz in late April; the family and colleagues of **Dr. Lynell Ragsdale**, Dean of Faculty at Rice University, preparing for her memorial service in early May;
- > **JoAnn and Ted Bolleter and their family**, following the devastating house fire in which Ted was badly burned.
- > **Bobbie Smith**, as she continues her recovery from brain surgery; persons living with cancer and those who love and care for them (David Smith, Anna Spalding, and others);
- > Those with memory loss and all who care for them;
- > **Cliff Beck, Sandy and Terry Vermillion, Eric Manske’s father, Monsignor Jerome Martinez**, and others living with neurological conditions; **Ed Barker** and others living with chronic pain;
- > Individuals and families dealing with mental health issues, including severe depression. (If you, a family member, friend, or co-worker is struggling emotionally or having a hard time, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.)
- > Persons who are imprisoned and those who love them;
- > Persons at senior facilities (**Yvonne Fairchild, Linda McDonald-Hummingbird, Natalie Wells, Margo Clark, Linda Dillman, Helen Wagner, Merry and Al Converse, Jere Turner, Dr. Karl Ray**, and others);
- > Persons caring for family members, near and far: **Dave Feldt, Rebecca Griego, DiAna Gutierrez, Sam and Molly Elkind, Lauren Smith, Pam Homer, Sherry Kelsey, Gloria and Terry Griffin, Sam Gerberding**, and others;
- > Families with extended families in other countries **Blanca Surgeon and Zulema Zambrano** (Honduras), **Jan and Kitty Jansen** (Netherlands), **Joohee and Lee Rand** (Korea), **Eva and Lenz Neuhauser** (Austria), **John Walker** (Scotland), **Avril and Jim Ekstrand** (Ireland), and others;
- > The people of Ukraine, whether in-country or having fled to neighboring countries; immigrant children, teenagers, and adults fleeing violence and poverty, seeking refuge in our country (whether from Central America, Afghanistan, Yemen, or other countries); **policymakers** who determine their fate;
- > All victims of gun-violence;
- > Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation;
- > Prayers for an end to the pandemic.

Bobbie Smith sends her thanks to all for their many notes of support as she heals.
Robin Smith (Bobbie’s daughter)


Congregational Care for May



On Call: Dave Wilkison (505) 400-0504
Food: John Shaffer (505) 466-4372

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)



Outreach

Outreach Opportunities

Please mail financial donations to United Church, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM 87505 or make them online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

United's Shelter Dinners Feed Homeless Persons and Support Santa Fe Businesses!

Each week United provides one hundred burritos from "Felipe's Tacos" and thirty-five sandwich suppers from Mucho Gourmet for Interfaith Shelter guests. Each month, it's thirty-five suppers for Casa Familia and St. Elizabeth guests. Memo: "Shelter Dinner."

Supporting Our Diné/Navajo Brothers and Sisters

United Church has a long-standing relationship with the Navajo/Diné Nation. Your financial support for covid relief work (food and cleaning supplies) and masks make a difference!



Cards and Cookies for Hospital Workers!

Medical personnel, housekeepers, and maintenance staff are on the front lines. Show your support with cards of support and/or cookies. Drop off at United (please list ingredients). We'll deliver!

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 *Tree New Mexico*. Info at: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/post/unitedscarbonoffsetprogram.

Compost Collection for Creation!

Deposit compostable products in the green bin. Also, pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please). Questions? Go to reunitedresources.com or call Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700). Thanks.



KITS FOR UKRAINE

United children, youth, and adults continue to assemble hygiene kits for Church World Service to send to refugee camps in countries around Ukraine and also in-country. You're invited to support that effort through monetary donations and/or supplies (for needed items, go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org). To date, we have received over \$18,000 in donations. Volunteers to help assemble or work with children and youth are also needed. Donations from people beyond United Church of Santa Fe are also welcome, so please pass the word to friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family. Thank you. (Talitha Arnold, Karen Wilbanks)

Many Thanks for "United We Run!"

Many thanks to all who made "United We Run" such a great success! Lots of people participated and others cheered them on. We raised funds to help resettle Afghan refugees and support both "Growing Up New Mexico" and Communities in Schools, and had a great time running, walking, and eating together. Many thanks to Immigration/Refugee leader Avril Ekstrand, Children/Youth Chair Karen Wilbanks, and Steve Hamilton of the Pretty Good Guys.



One Great Hour of Sharing – Thank You!

A sincere thank you to all who generously supported One Great Hour of Sharing this year. Your generosity in donating a total of \$2,025 demonstrates a strong commitment to OGHS's mission for peace and compassion around the world. Thank you!



Santa Fe River Cleanup Saturday, May 7 (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 at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or call 505-988-3295. All Creation thanks you!

Adult Faith Formation

Sunday “2nd Hours” (sometimes known as Adult Forums) 11:15 Sunday mornings

Our Sunday Forum schedule—usually reserved for adult education and faith development—changes a bit in May, as we devote time to several special events after Sunday worship.

***A Time of Thanks and Blessings* May 1**

We continue the celebration of Jacquelyn Helin’s ministry of music with United and wish her Godspeed.

May 8

No Forum in honor of Mother’s Day.

***Honoring Our Youth Initiates* May 15**

After the “Rite of Initiation to Adulthood” in 10:00 worship, the six Youth Initiates are celebrated in a special reception in their honor.

***The Status of Water in Rural New Mexico* May 22**



Blanca Surgeon, a long-time member of United, gives a presentation on both the state of water amidst the drought and the impact of recent legislation. Blanca works for the Rural Community Assistance Corporation.

***Wildfire Protection: What You Need to Know* May 29**

Protecting yourself today means having sources for information, preparing your home or workplace, developing an emergency communications plan, and knowing what to do when a wildfire is approaching your home or community. Learn about how you can prepare yourself, your family, and your home during this ongoing fire season. (United and Fire Adapted Communities Network member Marlita Reddy-Hjelmfelt plus guest presenter.)



Women’s Study Group Wednesdays, May 4 & 18 (10:00 am)

May 4: bring a poem, essay, scripture, excerpt from a book, hymn etc. that you like and speaks to you. Each person will read what they brought and talk about what the reading means to them. May 18: we’ll have a party outside and pick our books for the next year. That said, be ready to pivot. (Marcia Gardner, 505-670-5186, marcia.chavez3@gmail.com)



Pretty Good Guys

Wednesdays, May 11 and 25 (10:30 am)

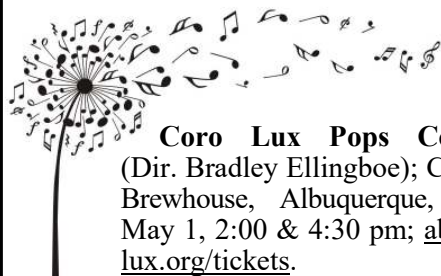
All men invited to join in this twice-monthly gathering. We’re sharing our family immigration stories and linking them to stories of current refugees and immigrants as well as Biblical stories (Greg Gaertner, 505-428-8910, greg.gaertner@comcast.net)



Strengthen the Pivots

Thursdays at 8:00 am (via Zoom)

Join in exploring the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday with others from across the country. We focus on strengthening the “Pivots of Faith.” Sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.



Coro Lux Pops Concert
(Dir. Bradley Ellingboe); Canteen Brewhouse, Albuquerque, Sun., May 1, 2:00 & 4:30 pm; abqcoro.lux.org/tickets.

Upcoming Musical Events:

Jacquelyn Helin, chamber music concert (Rachmaninoff, Bach, et al.). Sun., May 22, 5:30 pm, NM Performing Arts, Imm. Heart of Mary Chapel. nmpas.org/tickets. Tix for canceled Feb. 6 concert honored.

Santa Fe Youth Symphony Spring Series: *Camino*: April 30 & May 1, Scottish Rite Temple. Tix \$10. (Ethan Manske, Madelyn and Nathan Kingston, Luke and Jaden Rand)

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
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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 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!

BOTH LIVESTREAM AND INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED

United (even apart) Church is also United (indoors) Church! We'll continue to offer both the **10:00 am Sunday service in-person indoors** and also the **livestream of the service online** (access them on United's website: unitedchurchofsantafe.org). For the indoor service, please register by noon each Friday at unitedchurchofsantafe.org (click “RSVP for in-person services”). 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. Email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com for more information.