

***A SERVICE OF THE WORD
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST***

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ**

**September 27, 2026
10:00 A.M.**

For Reflection:
God is already here.

WE GATHER

(May the first note of the Prelude be a call to silence as we prepare for worship.)

Gathering Music

*Prelude in C Major
Come, Follow Me*

J.S. Bach
S. Burney/arr. Paul Cardall

*Introit

Come All You People (2x)

Alexander Gondo/Uyai Mose

***Come all you people, come and praise your Maker, come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker. Come now and worship the Lord.***

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Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

Breathing in and Sharing God's Gifts *Blessings for this Blessed Day!*

Sharing God's Peace and Regathering ***Come All You People*** (1x) Alexander Gondo/Uyai Mose

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship *Meekness and Majesty* Graham Kendrick

A Call to Worship from the Prophet Micah

Leader: With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Women: Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Men: Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Women: Shall I give my first-born, the fruit of my body for the sake of my soul?

Leader: God has shown you, O people, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you?

Women: But to do justice,

Men: and to love kindness,

All: and to walk humbly with your God?

Leader: Let us sing to the One who walks with us, whose power is known in justice and kindness.

*Hymn 181 ***You Are Salt for the Earth, O People*** (1-3) Marty Haugen/Bring Forth

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation (cong. bold)

Eternal Spirit of the universe, we thank you that you do not leave us alone,
but place your word within us and in the midst of our life together.

**You are no statue made of silver or gold,
but a living reality on the face of the earth.**

Give us the courage and commitment

to let your winds blow through us and to let your life be revealed among us.

Empowered by your Spirit,

**may we share our life together with joy, care for the needs of your people
bear witness to your love through our lives, and praise your day by day.**

We pray in your name. Amen.

In a Time of Silent Prayer and the Affirmation of Grace

*Our Song of Praise

You Are Salt for the Earth

Marty Haugen/Bring Forth

***We are a blessed and pilgrim people; bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland; love in the City of God!
Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!***

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*Blessing of the Children

WE ENGAGE

Keeping the Faith When Caesar Plays God

From a Letter to a (somewhat) New Church

Philippians 2:1-11

If then, my beloved friends, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be grasped,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

Christ humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly

and gave him the name

that is above every other name,

so that at the name given to Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Creator.

Hymn

454

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (1-3)

African American Spiritual

Sermon

The Power of Emptiness

Silent Reflection

Musical Response

454

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (v. 4)

African American Spiritual

WE RESPOND AND RECEIVE

Offering Our Prayers and the Lord's Prayer *(Please pray any version.)*

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

Turn

Julie Flanders and Emil Adler

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 104

We Hail You God's Anointed (1-2, 4)

James Montgomery/Ellacombe

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We hope you'll also join in the fellowship time after the service. If you're visiting today, we're glad you're here! Please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Director of Music/Pianist; the United Choir directed by John Tiranno. (Liturgist to be announced.) Frank Wilbanks and Sam Elkind, livestream gurus. You were welcomed by Dona Cook, Pam Hyde, Diane Darby, Tom Stewart, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

TODAY AT UNITED

Children's Ministry

- Nursery care for **infants and toddlers** (offered by Maria Navarette) and a time of songs, prayers, and stories for **Pre-K's and Kinders** (led by Tracy Church) is in the Nurture Center Sunday mornings, starting at 9:45.
- Following the "Song of Praise and Blessing of Children," **elementary-age children** are invited to **Kids United** to make dog biscuits for next Sunday's St. Francis Pet Blessing Service, and also sing and continue "Blessing and Letting Go."

Youth Field Trip to New Mexico Wildlife Center TODAY!

Sixth graders through High Schoolers leave shortly after the 10:00 service begins and return at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 for children under 18. See Dana Bender for details and to get a permission slip.

How Does United Work?—Today's Forum – 11:15

Our church is active in a huge variety of ministries, both inside and outside the church walls. It's all accomplished with the broad involvement of its members, friends, and staff. But how are these efforts coordinated and completed? This Sunday, you're invited to "lift the hood" on the United Church. What are the Ministry Teams and other essential groups that make up United's multiple ministries? How do things get funded? What's our volunteer strength—and what's needed—now and for the future? Explore and learn together "How United Works!"

Make United's Welcome a Real Deal!

We want to be a welcoming community every Sunday—we need your help to do that! Sign up today to greet/usher. It's a great way to meet new people and make new friends. Thanks!

The Week Ahead

Homeless in Santa Fe

KSFR Forum – Monday (tomorrow) – 6:00 pm 91.1FM

Forum hosts Rev. Talitha Arnold and Patrick Davis welcome Kent Grubbs, Chair of Santa Fe's Interfaith Community Services, and Nick Svetnicka and Riyah Garcia, Co-Directors of St. Elizabeth Shelter, for an in-depth discussion on the challenges of homelessness in Santa Fe, how their organizations are helping, and how we can be part of the solution.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals – Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and sings in the 10:00 service Sunday (9:00 rehearsal). All welcome! Please contact Music Director Michelle Schumann (unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com).

Forgiveness, Hope and Resilience – Zoom Bible Study Group

Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:00 am (MDT)

We're exploring what Jesus and Christian scripture said about forgiveness. All welcome.

To register, email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

NEXT SUNDAY!

The Love that Moves the Sun and All Stars **St. Francis Sunday – October 4 – Pet Blessing Sunday**

“All praise be Yours through Brother Sun, Sister Moon,” proclaimed Francis of Assisi. He echoed the long-ago Psalmist who praised the Creator for creating everything from rocks and mountains to the rock badgers that live there. Filling our lives with praise for the Creator is good way to deal with idols. So too is joining in our annual Pet Blessing in both services, whether or not we have a four-legged friend. (Please bring pets on a leash or in a cage—or just bring a picture.)

COMING UP

Behavioral Health Community Forum – Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026 (5:30–7:00 pm) **United Church of Santa Fe**

NAMI Santa Fe hosts a Behavioral Health Community Forum at United, with a reception at 5:00 pm. Residents join Santa Fe City and County leaders for a conversation about local mental health challenges, successful initiatives, and opportunities to support individuals and families affected by mental illness. We want to hear from you! Please share questions or topics you would like to address via our website: namisantafe.org. The forum is free and open to the public.

Wednesday Women’s Study Group – Oct. 7 at 10:00 am

From September through May, the group reads lots of great books. We meet to discuss them on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (10:00 to 11:30 am). You’re invited to join in! This month’s book is *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. For info: Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, mommorton@gmail.com), Jenn Wynn (817-219-0707, home@wynnes.us).

Hygiene Kits Offer Dignity and Hope Sunday, Oct. 11

On Oct. 11 after the 10:00 service, children, youth, and adults are invited to assemble hygiene kits to send to Church World Service for distribution to refugees. Each kit contains basic essentials (toothbrush, bar of soap, comb, nail clipper, wash cloth, small towel, band aids) needed by children and adults in emergency situations. We invite you to help underwrite the project with your check or online donation. And please spread the word to friends and co-workers who are looking for a way to help. Thank you!

October 11, Sunday Forum – *Punching Out Parkinson’s*

We welcome Richard White, Director of Santa Fe’s “Rock Solid” program, for persons with Parkinson’s to help keep them active and strong. He’ll share what the program offers, how our understanding of Parkinson’s has changed through the years, and also how he got involved. All welcome!

LOVE GOD BY LOVING 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 to help: 1.) Please use the compost containers in the Community Room and education rooms for your coffee cups, napkins, or plates from 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.



Schumann Chamber Players: “A Minor Situation”

Next Sunday, October 4, 3:00 – 5:00 pm at United

Experience the magic of chamber music with the Schumann Chamber Players. “A Minor Situation” features two fantastic piano trios by Beethoven and Mendelssohn. We’ll explore the stories and circumstances that brought these marvelous works into being, and then revel in a live, up-close-and-personal performance. Featuring Ruxandra Marquardt on violin, Allison Rich on cello, with award-winning pianist (and United Church Music Director) Michelle Schumann.