

Monthly publication
 United Church of Santa Fe
 Santa Fe, New Mexico
 February 2022

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FOR A MONTH WITH . . .

Groundhog Day February 2

All things bright and beautiful,
 All creatures great and small,
 All things wise and wonderful,
 The Lord God made them all.

Cecil Alexander

Valentine's Day February 14

For the wonders that astound us,
 For the truths that still confound us,
 Most of all, that love has found us,
 Thanks be to God.

Fred Pratt Green

Presidents' Day February 21

Today we remember people of stature and vision who led our nation in the past. We thank you for their wisdom and courage. We pray, too, that you bestow those same gifts on those in leadership in our time. Give them your commitment to justice and compassion for all people and all creation. Give them your love that overcomes fear. Help us all to walk in your ways. Amen.

Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) March 1

Prepare us for tomorrow, O Lord.
 Tasting the fullness of what we have today,
 let us experience some hunger tomorrow.
 May our fasting make us more alert
 and may it heighten our consciousness
 so that we might be ready to hear your Word
 and respond to your call through Lent's journey.

Andy Alexander, SJ (adapted)

For Children (and the rest of us)

Bless (child's name) with your love, O Lord.
 May every experience they have of love
 be an experience of Your love. Amen.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	2	Care and Concern	5
Worship	3	Outreach	6
Music Notes / Children's & Youth Ministry	4	Adult Faith Formation	7

**UNITED CHURCH
OF SANTA FE**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1804 Arroyo Chamiso
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Phone: 505-988-3295

Fax: 505-988-2353

E-mail: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com
www.unitedchurchofsantafe.org

The Rev. Talitha Arnold

Senior Pastor

Kimberly Zeilik

Moderator of the Congregation

Pamela Hyde

Moderator-Emerita

Jacquelyn Helin, D.M.A.

Music Director and Pianist

Bradley Ellingboe

Director of Choirs

Elijah Marquez

*Videographer/
Administrative Asst.*

Katie Bickley

Video Editor

Lin Raymond

Office Administrator

**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,

There are some passages of scripture you just need to sit with. Don't try to explain or exegete them, just wait and let their deep wisdom go deep into your bones and deeper into your soul.

The 40th chapter of Isaiah is one such passage. Written when the people of Israel were still in exile, it speaks of their weariness and fear they have been abandoned by God. But then the writer proclaims:

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth....
God gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.*

Lord only knows what **you're** facing right now in your life. If you're a parent, it may be the prospect of another round of online school for your children—while you're trying to keep working to keep a roof over their heads. If you're single, you may be dreading the isolation that comes with rising covid rates. If you're retired, it could be the sadness of yet more delays in seeing grandchildren or old friends.

Maybe you're feeling powerless and overwhelmed by the seemingly endless cycle of bad news—from environmental issues to racial injustice to the plight of immigrants and refugees.

Or perhaps it's a to-the-bone weariness with the pandemic (or as a friend's grandson calls it, this "pandammit"). Weren't we supposed to be done with all this by now?

When such weariness or worry starts to overcome you, take time with this passage from Isaiah. Let its wisdom go deep into your soul, its promise into your heart and mind. Trust that whatever may come, God will be with you. Remember the times when God gave you the wings to soar or the power to run. Remember when you simply had the strength to take the next step—and God helped you take it.

Most of all, remember that God's power is not only experienced in the eagle-winged, mountaintop times of our lives, but also when we plod through the valleys or get lost along the way. Wait for the Lord, my friends. God will renew our strength. God will make a way out of no way. The Creator of the ends of the earth is the One who is with us even now.

Blessings,



Worship in February

Learning to Pivot

“The central point or shaft on which a mechanism turns.” That’s a pivot. To “pivot”—which we’ve all been doing a lot of these last two years—is to turn on that central point. In worship this month, we’ll explore the Biblical stories of people who also had to pivot over and again in their lives. What can we learn from Isaiah the Prophet, Simon and the other fishermen-turned-disciples, Noah, and Mrs. Noah? Join in the exploration, either in-person or virtually.



Shaking of the Pivots **(Isaiah 6:1-8)** **February 6**

“And the pivots on the threshold shook . . .” That’s what Isaiah saw and felt that day in the temple when minding his own business, he had a vision of God Almighty and heard God’s voice calling him to new work. Apparently, we’re not the first people in history who’ve had to pivot on a regular basis.



What’s Love Got to Do with It? **(Jeremiah 17:5-10)** **February 13**

“I the Lord test the mind and search the heart,” God says through the Prophet Jeremiah. God also compares devious hearts and untrue minds to shrubs in a salt-infested desert, but faithful hearts and minds open to God’s teachings are like trees beside running streams. They stay green and bear abundant fruit. Since a pivot is the center point for a mechanism—or a life—then our pivoting best be rooted in deep faith and even deeper love.

Strengthening the Center Point **(Psalm 37:1-11)** **February 20**

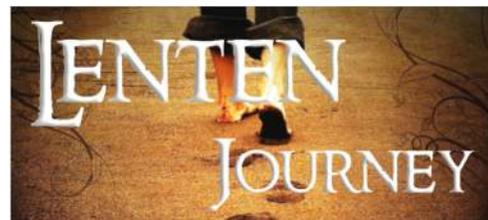
Psalm 37 tells us how to strengthen our pivot, by trusting the Lord, committing ourselves to God’s ways, and most of all, delighting in God. With composer and conductor Dr. Rosephayne Powell as our honored guest in a dialogue sermon, we’ll explore the power of music—and especially the African American tradition—to strengthen our trust and delight.



What’s the Point? **(Luke 9:28-36)**

Mardi Gras – February 27

On the top of a mountain with Jesus, the disciples are overwhelmed by all kinds of visions—Moses and Elijah, Jesus glowing like a light bulb, clouds, etc. They’re probably distracted as well with uncertainty and exhaustion from the climb. But then the voice of God calls out to them, “Listen to him!” (i.e., Jesus). When we feel exhausted and confused, listening to Jesus’ teachings and his life is a good place to start. The Andy Kingston Jazz Trio (plus Madelyn and Nathan) help get us focused (and inspired!).



Ash Wednesday
March 1 – 12:00 Noon and 7:00 pm
(also virtual)
The Journey of Lent Begins

Music Notes

February brings some special events during Sunday worship:

Feb. 20, in the 10:00 service, the focus will be *A Balm in Gilead* as we hear members of the joint United/Coro Lux choirs offering the music of Dr. Rosephayne Powell and other works in the African American tradition. The full weekend is devoted to FebFest, a joint sponsorship of United Church and Coro Lux, with Saturday choral workshops and a Sunday afternoon concert. Plan to attend (either in-person or virtual) morning worship as well as the afternoon concert!

Feb. 27, Mardi Gras Sunday, we feature the Andy Kingston Trio and family members Madelyn and Nathan. Our traditional way to celebrate Mardi Gras Sunday, before the six weeks of Lent, this service is full of great jazz!

Blessings, Jacquelyn



A Balm in Gilead

**African American Composer Rosephayne Powell
In FebFest Choral Festival
Sat., Feb. 19—Sun., Feb. 20
In-person and live-streamed**

In celebration of Black History month, United Church and the Coro Lux Choir again offers a Choral Festival celebrating music by an African American composer Dr. Rosephayne Powell over the weekend of Feb. 19-20. *A Balm In Gilead* begins with a Saturday workshop and culminates with morning worship and an afternoon concert Sunday, Feb. 20. All events will be held both in-person (spread out, masked, and fully vaccinated) and **also live-streamed.**

An internationally recognized composer, singer, and conductor, Dr. Powell is a professor at Auburn University. The Saturday workshop also includes an inspirational talk and book-signing by Richard Antoine White, about his journey from homelessness to a successful career in music. His new autobiography *I'm Possible* has been featured on the Today Show, and the talk shows of Jimmy Fallon and Trevor Noah.

The in-person workshop is \$65 (including lunch). The live-stream workshop is \$50. In addition, a free-will offering for Sunday's concert (either in-person or live-streamed) benefits NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Health. For more information or to register, visit abqcorolux.org. Additional questions? Please speak with United's Director of Choirs (and Coro Lux Director) Bradley Ellingboe or Pastor Talitha Arnold.

NOAH'S ARK—UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL Virtual Children's and Youth Production

United's Virtual Christmas Pageant was such a success, we're doing another production! This time, it's about Noah and the Ark—with input also from Mrs. Noah, their sons and daughters-in-law and all the animals. United's children and youth are the actors and will also offer their perspectives on caring for our Ark—aka the Earth. Stay tuned!

Family Supper Bag—Friday, Feb. 25

Once a month, United provides a simple, possibly home-made, take-home supper for United families. That gives hard-working, juggling-everything parents a break and feeds bodies and souls of both kids and parents. This month, it's Friday, Feb 25. If you'd like to help by cooking or shopping, please let Talitha Arnold know.

Bilingual Children's Bibles Presented in February

United will present bilingual Children's Bibles to our Pre-K's through 3rd graders (20+ kids). It's God's Good News in both Spanish and English!

Coming of Age in Corona-time Initiation and Graduation Sundays in May

Youth Ministry, like every other part of life, has been a challenge in coronatime—for the youth, their families, and the church. But kids are still growing and changing and United wants to honor their life transitions. So mark your calendars for **Initiation Sunday, May 15** when we honor our nine Youth Initiates and for **Graduation Sunday, May 22**, when our four high school graduates are guest preachers.

Pray-ers for United's Children and Youth

Are you willing to pray daily for a child in our congregation? Please join our Prayer-Child program to be paired with a child from UCSF. Those not paired up immediately will be placed on a list as new families join throughout the year. Contact Children's and Youth Team member Gail Ansheles (608-335-4774) if you're interested.

STAFFING FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

United remains committed to rebuilding our Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries in the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic. Several staff positions are available—from an overall Director to Sunday morning Nurture Center caregivers and other teachers to Youth Leaders. If you know of well-qualified people with a deep love for kids and a strong background in both education and the Christian faith, please spread the word and contact either Rev. Talitha Arnold or Children/Youth Ministry Chair Karen Wilbanks. And keep our kids and their parents in your prayers! Thank you!



CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks to:

- > All the youth, children, and adults who were part of United's First Virtual Christmas Pageant (and especially producer and videographer Elijah Marquez);
- > Stewardship and Finance Team (especially chair Sarah Sawtell, Treasurer Sam Elkind, and Stewardship Chair Bob Ansheles) and Church Council, for their preparations for the February 13 Congregational Budget Meeting;
- > Congregational Care Team for delivering 20+ Christmas flowers to members and friends who are shut-in or going through difficult transitions;
- > Sacred Space Team for the wonderful new Epiphany banner!

Prayers of new life and blessings for:

- > Our United High School Seniors (Emily Glover, Madelyn Kingston, José Lain-Straus, Ethan Manske, Tenzing Manske) as they apply to college and look to their future.

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- > **Terra Pressler** and her family and friends, as she has come under hospice care at home;
- > **Our Jewish brothers and sisters**, following the hostage attack on Temple Beth Israel and other ongoing anti-Semitic acts in our nation and around the world;
- > **The families and loved ones of those who lost their lives in the apartment fires** in the Bronx and Philadelphia; and prayers for a deeper commitment on our part to provide safe housing for all people;
- > **Diane Darby**, recovering from a broken wrist; **Nancy Merchat**, dealing with a broken foot;
- > Persons living with ongoing medical conditions, including **Theresa Kline, Robyn Covelli, Mary Noonan, Judy Corbin's** brother-in-law;
- > **Persons dealing with the coronavirus** and those who love and care for them; those who have lost loved ones due to the coronavirus; health care workers, grocery store stockers and clerks, educators, and parents on the front lines;
- > Persons living with cancer and those who care for them, including **Jody and Peter Spalding's daughter Anna, Lev Reynolds** (he and his wife Linda are regular summer visitors);
- > Persons living with chronic pain (**Jan McGough, Ed Barker, Julie Ann Grimm's husband**);
- > **Karl Ray, Cliff Beck, Sandy and Terry Vermillion, Eric Manske's father, Monsignor Jerome Martinez**, and others living with Parkinson's or other neurological conditions, including memory loss;
- > Persons living with addictions or mental illnesses, their families, and others who love them;
- > Persons who are imprisoned and those who love them;
- > Homebound members/friends (**Yvonne Fairchild, Bobby Smith**, and others);
- > Persons caring for family members, near and far, including **Kim Zeilik, Dave Feldt, Rebecca Griego, DiAna Gutierrez, Sam and Molly Elkind, Pam Homer, Sherry Kelsey, Lib O'Brien, Gloria and Terry Griffin, Sam Gerberding**, and others;
- > United Families with extended families in other countries (**Joohee and Lee Rand, Korea; Blanca and Bina Surgeon, Zulema and Larry Thorp, Honduras; John Walker, Scotland**; and others);
- > Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation;
- > All refugees, in search of hope and a new life;
- > Deep prayers for our nation and for all who aspire to leadership—that they and we may be blessed with God's vision of justice, grace, and abundant life for people and all creation.

Dear Friends at United,

Thank you everyone for the prayers, cards, and get well wishes sent after my Christmas Day fall on the ice that resulted in a broken wrist.

Diane Darby

Congregational Care for February



On Call: Dave Wilkison (505) 400-0504
Food: Debbie Maloney (940) 867-2169

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

(Financial donations can be mailed to United Church, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, SF, NM 87505 or made online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.)

United Church Supports

Afghan Refugee Resettlement in Santa Fe

Over 100 Afghan refugees are coming for resettlement in Santa Fe, starting January. United's Immigration Task Force is organizing a furniture and household goods drive for the families through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Please contact Avril Ekstrand (505-490-8164) if you have items to donate. Financial donations also welcomed to purchase good used items. (memo: Afghan Resettlement)



United's Shelter Lunches and Dinners for Persons Who Are Homeless

United continues to provide 100 Felipe's lunches and 35 Mucho Gourmet suppers for Interfaith Shelter guests, along with monthly dinners for St. Elizabeth (men) and Casa Familia (women/children). You can help with a weekly or monthly donation (memo: "Shelter Meals"). In 2021, United contributed over \$46,000 (inc. \$25,000 in individual donations) to provide 3,865 burritos and 1,900+ sandwich suppers. Thank you!

Masks & Monetary Donations for Good Shepherd Church in Diné/Navajoland

United sends regular financial support and masks to support our Diné sisters and brothers. Bring masks to the church and/or send your financial contribution via USPS or online (memo: Diné). In 2021, United sent over \$7,000 in monetary support and over 250 masks.



United's Carbon Offset Program

Track your car mileage and/or your plane flight hours and donate. Donations go to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and *Tree New Mexico*, both addressing climate change. More info at unitedchurchofsantafe.org/post/unitedscarbonoffsetprogram.

Compost Collection for Creation!

Bring your compostable products to deposit anytime in the green bin. Also, pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (NO standard plastic bags, please). Questions about what goes in the bin? Go to reunitedresources.com or call Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700). Thanks!

THANK YOU!

United Church of Christ Christmas Eve Offering

United raised over \$1,600 for the national UCC's "Christmas Fund" for low-income UCC retirees, many of whom faithfully served inner-city or rural congregations and/or communities of color.

Compassionate Christmas Gift (Virtual) Market

Thanks to the generosity of the United congregation and friends, far and near, the 2021 Compassionate Christmas gifts raised \$4,150 for:

- New Mexico Immigrant Law Center: \$900
- Santa Fe Shelters for the Homeless (Casa Familia, St. Elizabeth, Interfaith Shelter): each received \$400, totaling \$1,200
- Church World Service: \$340
- Solace Crisis Center: \$910
- BookKids: \$800



Thank You for Honduran Holiday Support

Thank you, United family, for your great support during 2021 Honduran Holiday. Two hundred meals went out and we raised \$8,595 (\$5,047 for the BECA school and \$3,548 for Oasis de Amor orphanage). My mother is in heaven cooking that much! Thank you, church family. We could not do it without you. Blanca and Family.

"Live Generously, Connect Deeply" We're Getting Close!

There is still time to make a 2022 Pledge to the United Church of Santa Fe. As of Jan. 16, we've received 180 pledges, totaling: \$530,835 towards the \$550,000 goal—only \$19,165 to go! We hope you'll help! To make your pledge or for more info on stewardship, contact Stewardship Chair Bob Ansheles, Moderator Kim Zeilik, or Stewardship and Finance Chair Sarah Sawtell. Thank you!

Adult Faith Formation

February Adult Forums Sundays at 11:15 (after 10:00 Worship)

United's Faith in the Future Small Group Gatherings Feb. 6

The Sunday before the Midwinter Budget Meeting, you're invited to join in small group gatherings throughout the church to engage with Council and other leaders to talk about four central areas of our life and ministry: 1. Children, Youth, and Families; 2. Finances and the 2022 Budget; 3. Outreach; 4. Music and Worship. We'll use a "Round Robin" process to make sure that all participants can engage all four areas.

Congregational Mid-Winter Budget Meeting Feb. 13

All members and friends are invited to join in the Congregational Budget Meeting after worship. Copies of the proposed 2022 Operating Budget available Sun., Feb. 6. We're also exploring a live-stream option.

"A Balm in Gilead" Concert of African American Music Sunday, Feb. 20 – 2:00 pm (In-person and Live-streamed)

We won't have a Forum this Sunday but hope you'll join in the special United Church/Coro Lux concert of African American music that afternoon at 2:00 pm (in-person/live-streamed). (More info on p. 4.)

Two Forums – Sunday, Feb. 27

What the Heck Is Lent? (and why do we observe it?)

Christians set aside 40 days (and six Sundays) to get ready for Easter. Why? And is giving up chocolate the only way to do so? We'll explore Lent's history and possible ways to prepare for the new life of Easter.

Water, Water Everywhere – Maybe

We'll focus on God's creation—especially water, both locally and globally.



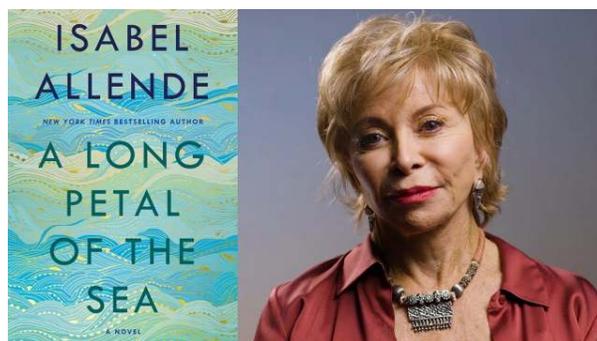
STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUPS (In-person, Inside)

All participants must sign up by 5:00 pm
the day before the group meeting
at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Masks and vaccination confirmation required.
Thank you!

Wednesday Women's Study Group Feb. 2 and 16 (10:00 am)

All women are invited to join the discussion of *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende. (Marcia Gardner: 505-670-5186, marcia.chavez3@gmail.com)



Pretty Good Guys

Wednesdays, Feb. 9 and 23 (10:30 am – noon)

All men welcome! We get to know one another by talking about our lives and spiritual journeys. (Greg Gaertner: greg.gaertner@comcast.net, 505-428-8910)



Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MDT) on Zoom

Exercise your mind and your soul every Thursday morning by exploring the scripture stories for the upcoming Sunday. Join in to deepen your faith and share the journey. All welcome!

Due to rising Covid numbers, the Feb. 6 New Mexico Performing Arts Society's chamber music concert with United's Music Director Jacquelyn Helin, piano, is postponed to Sunday, May 22, 5:30 pm (Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel). Already purchased tickets will be honored. Music of Rachmaninoff, Martinů, and J.S. Bach's *Trio Sonata from the Musical Offering*. Tickets/info: NMPAS.org.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1804 Arroyo Chamiso - Santa Fe NM 87505

Phone: 505-988-3295 Fax: 505-988-2353

E-mail: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com

www.unitedchurchofsantafe.org

Mailing Date — January 20, 2022

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 198
Santa Fe NM 87501

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 RECORDED 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 **recorded worship services** (access them on United's website: unitedchurchofsantafe.org). The two services are similar in content but with different music. 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 .