

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

June 2026

PRAYERS FOR THE START OF SUMMER

Lord of all creation, you have made us the caretakers of your world, to tend it, to serve it, and to enjoy it. For six days we measure and we build, we count and carry the real and the imagined burdens of our tasks, the success we earn and the price we pay.

On this, the Sabbath Day, give us rest.

For six days, if we are weary or bruised by the world, if we think ourselves giants or cause others pain, there is never a moment to pause, and know what we should really be.

On this, the Sabbath Day, give us time.

For six days we are torn between our private greed and the urgent needs of others, between the foolish noises in our ears and the silent prayer of our soul.

On this, the Sabbath Day, give us understanding and peace.

Help us, Lord, to carry these lessons, of rest and time, of understanding and peace, into the six days that lie ahead, to bless us in the working days of our lives. Amen.

Jewish Tradition

(substitute “summer” for Sabbath and it works for the season, too)

SKYLOOM

*O our Mother Earth, O our Father Sky,
Your children are we: with tired backs
We bring you gifts that you love.*

*Then, weave for us a garment of brightness.
May the warp be the white light of morning,
May the weft be the red light of evening.
May the fringes be the falling rain.
May the border be the standing rainbow.
Weave for us a garment of brightness,
That we may walk fittingly where birds sing,
Where grass is green.*

*O our Mother Earth, O our Father Sky,
Weave for us!*

Para un niño
(For a Child)

*Que conozcan la paz de las cosas salvajes.
Que se refresquen en aguas quietas.
Que descansen en la gracia del mundo y sean libres.*

May they know the peace of wild things.
May they be refreshed by still waters.
May they rest in the grace of the world and be free.

**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,

As you head out for wherever this summer leads you, I invite you to take time to pray—every day! If you need some inspiration in how to connect with the mystery and power of God, here's a "Guide to How to Pray" that United's children assembled (with the help from some adults) a few years ago:

**Ways to Pray from
A to Z**

We thank you, God, for all the ways all your children pray:
All Alone or eating an **Apple**. In my **Bed** or **Beside** friends.

We can pray to **Comfort**,
with your **Cat** or in a **Cave**.

As a **Disciple**, with your **Dog**.

We can pray with **Everyone**, in **Egypt** and beyond,
with **Friends** or **Foe**, **Far** away

We can pray with **God** (or give thanks for **Gatorade** or a pet **Goat**).

We can pray **Happily**, riding a **Horse** or eating **Hot** dogs.

We can pray on an **Island** or in an **Igloo**,
Jumping or with a **Jaguar**.

We can pray flying a **Kite** or with a **Kangaroo**,
with **Lily** or at a **Lake**, even **Lying** down.

We pray when we're looking at the **Moon** or **Making** art,
Noticing beauty and **Nibbling** crackers.

We can pray **On** a special mat or **On** the floor,
eating **Pickles** and **Playing**!

We can pray with our **Questions**. We can pray with a **Queen**.

We can pray **Riding** a **Rhinoceros** (or **Running** from one).

We can pray **Silently**, **Sucking** a lollipop.

We pray when we **Talk** to God,
whether **Underwater** or **Using** beads.

We can pray **Very** loudly, **Vigorously**
With friends or quietly by **Writing**.

We can pray getting an **X-ray** or playing the **Xylophone**,
with a **Yak** or **Yodeling**.

We can pray **Zippering** **Zippers** (especially when they're stuck).
And we can always pray at the **Zoo**!

Thank you, God, for all these ways and places to pray,
and for all the people who pray with us and for us.

Thank you for listening,
and thank for you for the prayer Jesus taught us. Amen.

So this summer, whether you're riding a horse or running from a rhinoceros, looking at the moon, getting an X-ray, or going to the zoo, take time to give thanks to the One who created it all and who is with us wherever our journeys lead.

Blessings,

Talitha



Worship in June

ASK THE ANIMALS WORSHIP THIS SUMMER

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
The Book of Job (12:7-9)

The Biblical book of Job seems like an unlikely source for an environmental ethic. Yet early in Job's argument with his "friends" about human suffering and God's will, he looks to animals, birds, and plants to affirm his faith that God is a God of all life.

In worship this summer, we'll engage a number of unlikely Biblical texts about the natural world that offer profound insights into the nature of the mystery we call God. They challenge us to rethink our relationship both to that mystery and the world around us. Join in – and bring a friend!

The Hand that Shapes Us | June 7

"Every wild animal of the forest is mine," proclaims God through Psalm 50. "I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine." A dominant thought through much of Christianity has been that we humans are the center of the universe, with the right to use this earth and all living things solely to satisfy our own wants. Yet the Bible offers a different vision, one where the same hand and heart that shapes and holds us also shapes and holds the whole world and all with whom we share life. We simply need to find our proper place.

Faithfulness to All Generations | June 14

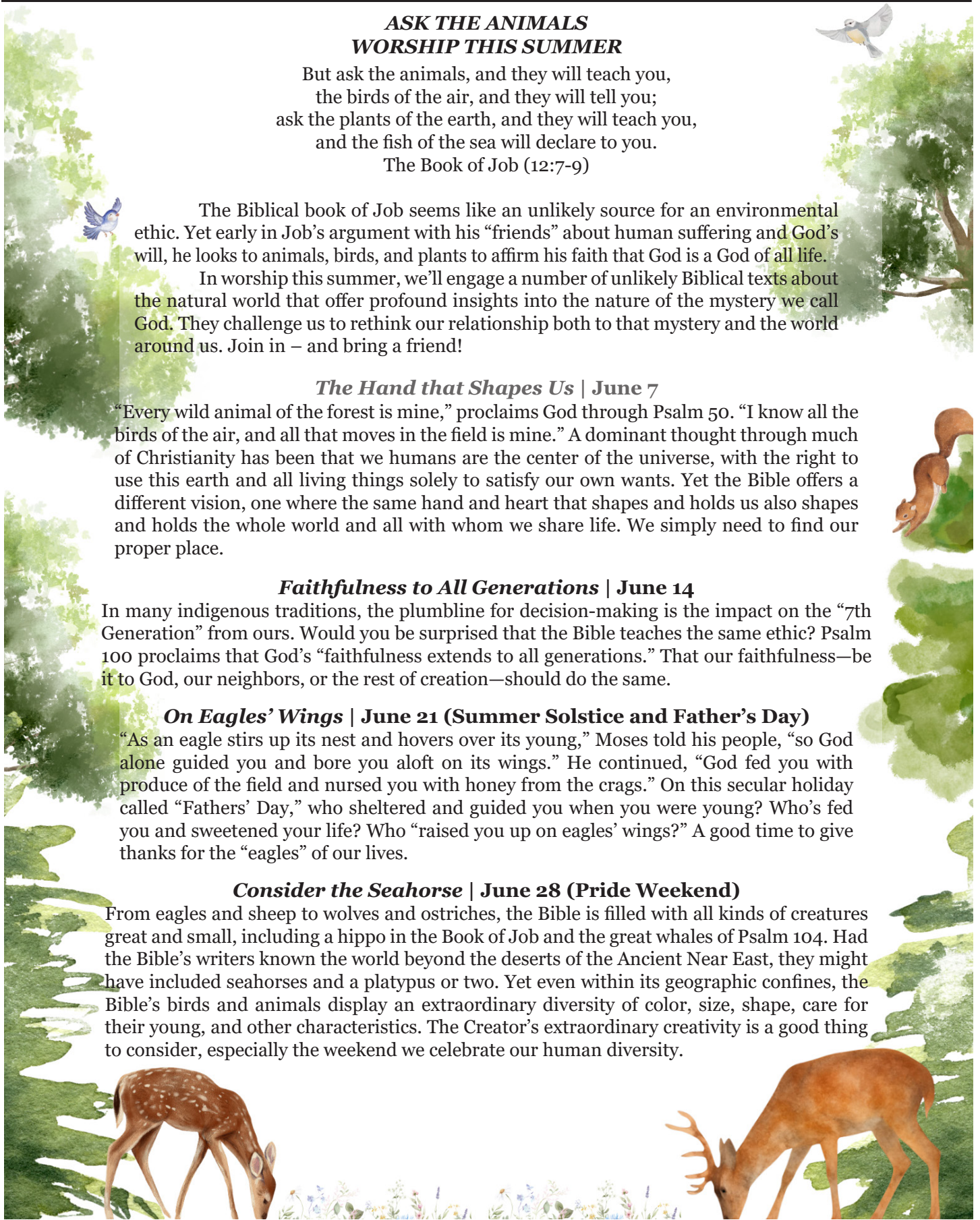
In many indigenous traditions, the plumline for decision-making is the impact on the "7th Generation" from ours. Would you be surprised that the Bible teaches the same ethic? Psalm 100 proclaims that God's "faithfulness extends to all generations." That our faithfulness—be it to God, our neighbors, or the rest of creation—should do the same.

On Eagles' Wings | June 21 (Summer Solstice and Father's Day)

"As an eagle stirs up its nest and hovers over its young," Moses told his people, "so God alone guided you and bore you aloft on its wings." He continued, "God fed you with produce of the field and nursed you with honey from the crags." On this secular holiday called "Fathers' Day," who sheltered and guided you when you were young? Who's fed you and sweetened your life? Who "raised you up on eagles' wings?" A good time to give thanks for the "eagles" of our lives.

Consider the Seahorse | June 28 (Pride Weekend)

From eagles and sheep to wolves and ostriches, the Bible is filled with all kinds of creatures great and small, including a hippo in the Book of Job and the great whales of Psalm 104. Had the Bible's writers known the world beyond the deserts of the Ancient Near East, they might have included seahorses and a platypus or two. Yet even within its geographic confines, the Bible's birds and animals display an extraordinary diversity of color, size, shape, care for their young, and other characteristics. The Creator's extraordinary creativity is a good thing to consider, especially the weekend we celebrate our human diversity.



Music

Michelle Schumann, Director of Music / Pianist

It's been a terrific year for the Music ministry at United, and June brings a well-deserved break for the Sanctuary Choir. Many thanks to all the choir members who've put in countless hours to bring beautiful and moving musical worship experiences in the 10:00 service!

Summer brings opportunities for anyone at United to have a choral experience during our monthly Drop-In Choir Sundays. June 7 marks the first of the season, when we'll prepare for the 10:00 am service with an energetic 45-min rehearsal at 9:00 am. Save the dates for the other Drop-in Choir services on July 12 and August 9!

June also features some special guests during worship services. On Sunday, June 21, we're delighted to welcome the **30-voice Matins Youth Choir from Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ from Ames, Iowa** to help lead worship. On June 21 and 28, we also welcome back Jacquelyn Helin as pianist when I am on vacation.

Stay tuned for guest appearances by the Santa Fe Opera Apprentices, who will be sprinkled throughout June, July, and August. As always, I'm looking forward to ever-deepening our worship experiences with transformative and engaging music!



Musically yours,
Michelle



10:00 Choir Director News

The Church Council is pleased to share that on recommendation of Pastor Talitha Arnold and Music Director Michelle Schumann and with the affirmation of the 10:00 Choir, United has offered André García-Nuthmann the position of Choir Director for the coming year and he has accepted. We look forward to another good year of music-making!

Children & Youth

Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministry

Many Thanks!

The school year has ended and so has my first year here at United Church! I am profoundly grateful to all of those who helped with teaching, mentoring, gardening, chaperoning, crafting, cooking ... the list goes on and on! Thank you for the support and kind words throughout this year, especially to Karen Wilbanks for her mentorship and tolerance for "ear-bending" ideas!

As folks scatter to various vacations and summer activities, I am hopeful we can find a few times to gather for fun and fellowship throughout the summer. I'm always open to ideas for outings, hikes, conversations, and more. Feel free to reach out to me any time with ideas about how we can connect to one another. Side note: "Family Ministry" isn't just about children and teens. It really is about everyone in this community of faith.

Blessings,
Dana



"United Church Night" at Fuego Baseball Game!

Friday, June 5—5:30 pm

(sign up by Wednesday, June 3)

Join with your United community to cheer Santa Fe's hometown baseball team, the Fuegos. We're sponsoring the game, which means we get to throw out the first pitch, meet the players, get discounted tickets, and have United Church highlighted all through the game. Tickets are \$7 (33% off!) and families with kids are free. You can also help underwrite family tickets by including a donation with your ticket purchase. Sign up at church or email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Friends are welcome, of course!

We Are Making a Joyful Noise throughout the Summer

Each week this summer we will be tending to the Children's Garden and ... making music!! Kids United will be singing, tone chiming, and drumming throughout the summer in the hopes of offering some of these gifts in church at the end of the summer or early in the fall. Kids and youth of any age can feel free to join in Sundays during the 10:00 services.



Care and Concern

Prayer of Thanks for:

- The mentors, trip chaperones, and staff (**Dana Bender, Talitha Arnold**) who helped our Confirmands-Initiates in their journeys of faith and life over the past 3 years.
- The 10:00 **Sanctuary Choir**, along with **Music Director Michelle Schumann and Choir Director André García-Nuthmann**, for the choral music of the last nine months, as they take their summer break.
- **Pam Hyde**, for organizing the United community for the June 27 Pride Parade; **Maggie Popp**, weekly office volunteer; **Melanie Lohman**, organizing United's historical articles; **Lauren Smith**, stepping down after several years as volunteer Choir Librarian.

Congratulations and Blessings for United's Graduates (in addition to those in the May newsletter):

- **Jamie Natonabah**, recipient of a New Mexico Writers grant to finish her last year at Institute of American Indian Arts.
- **Calvin Joyce Brown**, graduating from Cyber-High this spring.
- United Youth (**Weston Puglisi, Sasha Smucker, Luke Rand, Jack Smucker, Bonnie Bannerman**) who were confirmed and became United's newest members on Sunday, May 10.

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- **Lee Evenson and her family**, following the death of her husband Ron in May.
- **Nanette Farrelly**, recovering from a 9-hour lumbar fusion surgery at LA's Cedar Sinai on May 1; **Avril Ekstrand's mother** in Ireland who is under palliative care.
- Persons dealing with cancer and those who love and care for them: **Shauna Wilbanks, 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**, and others.
- Persons in assisted living: **Sylvia Ortega, Jim Mills** (Kingston); **Ray & Nancy Lutz** (Legacy); **Ann Noss** (El Castillo); **Rev. Christine Vogel; Linda Knapp, Rev. Roger 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, LGBTIQ+ or female.



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)

Congregational Care for June:

On Call: John Shaffer: (814) 336-9353

Food: Dave Wilkison (505-637-8735)

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.

LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR

Summer Drive for the Food Depot

The Food Depot supplies schools, shelters, and agencies around Northern New Mexico with healthy food year-round. Bring items to church: jumbo-size cans or packages of vegetables, fruit, rice, pasta, beans and especially high-protein foods (dried beans, canned meats, chili con carne, soups); baby foods (powdered formula, cereal, jars of baby food); diapers. Monetary donations also welcome. Make checks to United Church (memo: Food Depot) or go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you!

Children's Garden Vegetables for Food Depot, too!

Produce from the Children's Garden goes to the Food Depot to provide fresh vegetables in the food bags. If you'd like to help with weekly weeding or harvesting, please contact Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com) or sign up at church. Also, as the summer progresses, if you have extra squash, etc. from your own garden, bring it to the church and we'll get it to the Food Depot!



Loving Our Neighbors in Santa Fe Supporting Santa Fe's Shelters

United Church provides full dinners monthly to Santa Fe Shelters. Lots of volunteer opportunities—making meatloaves at home; preparing casseroles at church (“Chop and Grate”); delivering food. Please contact Cathy Garrett (cathygarrett1@gmail.com). Details for June:

- **Six meatloaves**, feeding 10 people each (approximately 3 lbs.).
- **June 19** (Friday, 9:00 am) – **Chop and Grate Casserole Making**; 1:00 pm Deliver meals to Casa Familia and St. Elizabeth Shelters.

Matins Youth Choir Plymouth Congregational UCC Sunday, June 21

The Matins Youth Choir from Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Arnes, Iowa will bless us on Sunday, June 21 at 10:00 am at the United Church of Santa Fe.

LOVE GOD, LOVE CREATION

Santa Fe River Cleanup

Many thanks to everyone who joined in the May 9 River Cleanup for the Santa Fe Watershed Association. We cleaned up 14 bags of trash and had a great time doing it! The next cleanup morning will be Saturday, August 8. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters. All Creation thanks you!

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle!

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and bring back to put in the green bin by the back fence. More things in compost bins means less in landfills. Thanks!

Planning Your Summer Travels?

Offset Your Carbon Use and Care for Creation

United's “Carbon Offset Program” helps plant trees and change policies to address climate change. It's simple: track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to support *Santa Fe Watershed Association* and *NM Interfaith Power and Light's* advocacy. Information at: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Santa Fe Pride Parade Saturday, June 27

United Church is marching in the 33rd Annual Pride Parade! Meet in the PERA parking lot (corner of Old Santa Fe Trail and Paseo de Peralta) by 9:30 am. Wear your green United “Heart-Hands” T-shirt (you can buy one at the church), hat, sunscreen, walking shoes. Bring a full water bottle. Sign up by Thursday, June 25 in Community Room or at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. More info: Pam Hyde (pshyde50@comcast.net). Let's show our United Pride! Thank you!



Adult Faith Formation

ADULT FORUMS — Sundays at 11:15 am

June 7 — *The Border Stories*

Dr. Yolanda Leyva, University of Texas - El Paso
Dr. Leyva presents immigrants' oral histories from the El Paso - Ciudad Juarez and Borderlands communities. She'll also share some of her own life experience in the El Paso - Ciudad Juarez region, and the climate there now around immigration issues. It's an honor to welcome her to United.

June 14 — “*Lili Elbe*” *Love, Tolerance, and Otherness*

Desirée Mays

The opera *Lili Elbe* (which premieres this summer at the Santa Fe Opera) tells the deeply human story of this Danish artist and his devoted artist wife, Gerda Wegener, in the 1920s. Lili Elbe was one of the first recipients of gender-affirming surgery, seeking authenticity and affirmation of her true self. Desirée Mays recounts her life through Lili's quotes and thoughts, accompanied by music from composer Tobias Picker's score and images of Gerda's art featuring Lili.

June 21 — Get to know the young singers!

After **The Matins Youth Choir** from Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Ames, Iowa, helps lead the 10:00 service, we'll have a chance over an extended fellowship time to get to know them and learn about their church and its ministry with youth. Plan to stay!

June 28 — TBR



There's still time to register for “Love In Action” Arts Camp, June 15-19, from 9 - 3, and scholarships are still available! Please contact Dana Bender for further information.

GROUPS AND GATHERINGS

Pretty Good Guys Wrap Up *Biblical Ethics* Wed. June 10 and 24 – 10:30 -12:00

They'll start a new study series later in the summer. All welcome!

Wednesday Women's Study Group Takes a Summer Break

But they'll start up again the first and third Wednesday in the fall. Their books include “The Lion Women of Tehran,” “Where Rabbits Hide” by Tewa writer Teresa Valdez Rodriguez, and many others.

What Does the Bible Really Say About ‘Forgiveness?’

Zoom Study Group Starts

Thursdays, May 28, 8:00 – 9:00 am MDT

Email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com to register. What does it mean to ‘turn the other cheek?’ Is it actually a good idea to “forgive 7 times 70?” Or “forgive and forget?” What about restorative justice? Or judgement? Join people from around the country, as well as the congregation, for an in-depth look at what the Bible says about this challenging topic—and explore your own questions, too. All welcome!

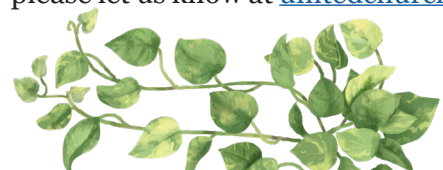
Day Trip to Bosque Redondo Historic Site and Museum

Wednesday, July 1 – 7:30 am to 5:00 pm

In the mid-1800s, the U.S. Army rounded up the Navajo/Diné people of northern Arizona and New Mexico and marched them 400 miles from their homeland to Ft. Summer in the Bosque Redondo. The Long Walk of the Navajo is a hard truth of our nation's history. On Wednesday, July 1 United Church offers a day trip to the Bosque Redondo Historic Site and Museum. It's a 2 ½ hour drive from the church to Bosque Redondo, so we'll leave at 7:30, tour the museum and site, have lunch and then return. Sign up in the Community Room or at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Info: Talitha Arnold.

Get to Know Santa Fe Study Group

If you'd be interested in a book study group focused on Santa Fe's history, culture, “challenges and opportunities,” please let us know at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.



THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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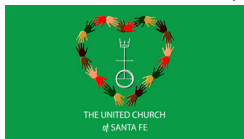
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WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE

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, or go to our website. Thank you!