For the Last Month of Summer

Come summer with me, Lord;
summer deep down in my soul;
restore my faith in summer’s time,
in rest, in joy, in play, in you...
Summer in my heart, Lord,
and dwell there
as if time would never end,
as if all time were children’s time, eternal time
when school is always out and joy is ever in…
And let others summer in my shade, Lord,
and share whatever summer’s peace is mine to give,
whatever summer’s light is mine to shed,
whatever summer’s warmth is mine to share...
Good God of every season and every day this week,
come summer with me, Lord, and let the child in my heart
spend this last month of summer in your love… Amen.

Fr. Austin Fleming

For Indian Market Sunday

To pray you open your whole self—
to sky,
to earth,
to sun,
to moon,
to one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you cannot see, cannot hear.

Joy Harjo, *Eagle Poem*
(from Muscogee oral tradition)

For the Beginning of School

Dear Lord,
We pray for all the children entrusted to our care
and those throughout the world.
Be good to them.
The sea is so big,
and their boat is so small.
Hold them always in your love. Amen.

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Dear Friends,

What is one of the most radical things the Christian church ever did?
Advocate for economic justice? Work for civil rights? Ordain women?
Ordain openly gay persons?
How about the development of the Sunday School?

While our memories (if we have them) of Sunday School—aka Children’s Ministry—may be of flannel boards, popsicle stick Biblical figures, and perhaps memorizing the 23rd Psalm or the Ten Commandments, the first “Sabbath Schools” had a far more challenging agenda. Namely to save children’s lives, especially those of poor children.

The Industrial Revolution was going full throttle in 1780, when Robert Raikes, an English newspaper publisher, started the first Sabbath School. The mechanization of everything from wool spinning to textile manufacturing had created great wealth for the factory owners, but it spelled disaster for Britain’s children. When families moved from farms and villages into the exploding cities, the whole family—including children as young as six years old—went to work in the factories and mills. Children’s smaller bodies, agility, and energy made them a natural fit for factory work and mining. They could also be paid less than adults, even if the demands were the same—six days a week, 14-16 hours a day. Not until 1803 was a limit set on child labor—at 12 hours/day.

With no opportunity to learn to read, write, or do arithmetic, working class children had no chance of escaping a lifetime of soul-crushing labor. Raikes started his Sabbath school to give children one morning a week when they could learn to read and think for themselves, as well as learn about God’s love.

Raikes’ underlying belief was that children weren’t created simply to be cogs in the machinery of the Industrial Age. Children, even poor children, had souls and minds, and those souls and minds needed to be nurtured and developed.

What a revolutionary idea. Small wonder his Sabbath Schools met with great resistance from ministers and other church leaders. According to Church Historian Martin Marty, “lay teaching jeopardized clerical preaching; religious and secular subjects were blended; women acquired new roles in the churches. There are stories of ministers who chased female Sunday School teachers with sticks and brooms, calling them servants of Satan. In the early 1820’s, a Nashville, Tennessee congregation posted a sign, ‘No desecration of the holy Sabbath, by teaching on the Sabbath in this Church’ would be permitted.”

Political and business leaders were equally fearful as an educated working class might no longer be content with their “proper station in life.” If children learned about the Biblical prophets’ cry for justice or Jesus’ care for the poor, that could lead to revolution.

But Raikes’ vision prevailed and the Sabbath School movement quickly spread from England to the United States. For almost two centuries, Sabbath/Sunday Schools were an integral part of American life.

That’s changed in our lifetimes, for a host of reasons that range from Sunday sports to family work schedules. Yet the need to nurture the souls of children and youth—to see them not simply as consumers, but beloved children of a loving God, to create safe and supportive space for them to explore who they are and what God calls them to be—that need is no less urgent now than in Raikes’ time. As we look to the future of our own church, may we also look to his vision and commitment to God’s children and youth.

Blessings,

AUGUST 2022
Worship in August

8:30 Outdoor Communion
10:00 Sanctuary Service with special music
Online services continue, too!

What Does the Bible Really Say about . . . ?
Summer Worship Series

“What Does the Bible Really Say?” We continue our exploration through August, with a focus on both pastoral issues like prayer, and cultural issues that are often framed in Biblical terms like sexuality. Join in this challenging and engaging summer!

. . . Immigration and Refugees? (July 31)
“Don’t oppress an immigrant, because you were once immigrants.” (Exodus 32:21) “Leave part of the harvest for the poor and the immigrant.” (Leviticus 19:9-10) “Accept the immigrant as a citizen.” (Leviticus 19:33-34). The Bible has a lot to say about how we regard persons who have come after us into whatever land we’re in. How should such teachings inform our ministry as a church—or our policies as a nation. A challenging topic for Spanish Market Sunday, given the history of immigration into New Spain, New Mexico, the Southwest, El Norte.

. . . Sexuality – Part 1 (Aug. 7)
When it comes to sex, is the Bible just a list of “thou shalt nots” (as it seems in Leviticus or some of Paul’s letters)? Or does it offer a joyous and embodied understanding of being physical, sexual, thinking human beings in ethical and just relationship with other physical, sexual, thinking human beings? (See Song of Songs.) Or can it be both/and? We share Communion at both services.

Same-gender marriage, transsexuality, non-binary, gender roles, non-gender roles. A whole of lot of 21st century questions that aren’t found anywhere in the Bible, much less directly answered in scripture. So . . . what’s a person of faith to do or believe? Use our brains and hearts to begin with. We’ll also bless United students and educators as they begin a new school year.

. . . What’s Sacred or Holy? (Aug. 21)
What makes something—a place, a piece of music, a book, a ritual or action—holy or sacred? On Indian Market Sunday, when we remember we live in prayed-in land, Pastor Talitha Arnold and Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe join in a dialogue sermon of all things sacred. In the 10:00 service, we also celebrate the baptism of Augustus Vaughn Stone, 1-year-old son of Ben and Meredith Stone and welcome the “Drop-in Choir.”

. . . Being the Church? (Aug. 28)
Faith is never an isolated endeavor. When God calls us to be in relationship with our neighbor, creation, and with God—we are also called into closer relationship with one another as a community. What are the marks of a healthy church? What does the Bible say about how we are responsible to and for one another? A good exploration for the Sunday of United’s “42nd Annual Meeting of the Congregation.”

. . . Work? (Sept. 4)
What better topic for Labor Day Sunday?
Althought there was some disappointment that we couldn’t have our summer special music supplemented by Santa Fe Opera Apprentices this year—since they’re restricted to the opera grounds due to Covid—the silver lining is we’re featuring our home-grown talent this summer! And wherever possible, we’re featuring music presented by the young people of the congregation. So, in August we look forward special music by Ethan Manske (8/7) and the Kingstons (8/14).

In addition, we’ll have one Drop-In Choir in August, on the 21st. Please DO consider dropping in for the 9:00 am Sunday morning rehearsal to sing at the 10:00 service. The choir will sing a baptism-themed piece of mine, in honor of Talitha performing the baptism of her grandnephew that day. Invite your singing friends, too, and don’t forget to register for the service.

Choir will resume its regular Wednesday evening rehearsals on September 7 and will sing as per usual the following Sunday, September 11. If you’re at all interested in being a part of the choir, please let me know. We always welcome new members! (unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com)

Brad

Save the Date!

**REQUIEM**

Requiem by Brad Ellingboe with Coro Lux
Sunday, Sept. 11—2:00 pm
United Church of Santa Fe

“Lightning Boy Hoop Dancers” at United
Friday, July 29 (7:00 pm) – For All Ages!

The event features tribal youth from northern New Mexico. The Hoop Dance continues to be known as a healing art form and is said to have its origins in the Pueblos of Northern New Mexico. Bring a lawn chair, a friend, and enjoy this unique New Mexico offering! You can also pack a picnic supper and come early. It will help if you sign up, too. (unitedchurchofsantafe.org)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Youth Minister Kate Murphy
unitedchurch.kate@gmail.com

Children’s Ministry Sunday Mornings
This summer United’s children tend the Children’s Garden on Sunday mornings during worship, become the “River Anew” and learn about God and God’s earth, water, air, and creatures. All welcome! (Adult volunteers welcome, too! Please let Kate Murphy know.)

**THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE!**
August 4 – 5:30 to 7:00 pm
All United families invited for supper and lots of fun. Grandchildren and friends welcome! Please sign up at unitedchurchofsantafe.org by Wed., August 3.

Middle and High School Youth
Thursday, August 11 at United
(7:15 to 8:30 pm)
Encourage your kids to join with other United Youth—and friends—for summer fun! Led by Kate Murphy and volunteers, they’ll play ice breaker games, then have a music night (create/update a youth songbook).

Blessings for the Journey after High School
Throughout July and August Sundays, we’ll take time in Sunday services to bless and wish God-speed for our recent high school graduates as they leave for college or other adventures. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

**YOUTH INITIATION TO ADULTHOOD**
Parent and Youth Orientation Session
Sunday, August 7 – 11:15 am
The passage from childhood into adolescence and young adulthood is a transformational journey, which is why United’s 2-Year Initiation to Adulthood program is central to our ministry with youth. On Sunday, August 7, after worship, United 8th and 9th graders (and their friends) are invited with their parents to an “Introduction to Initiation” gathering with Talitha Arnold and Kate Murphy.
Prayers of Thanks for:
- United’s Church Council, for their leadership this past year and for preparing for the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Congregation on August 28.
- All volunteers who helped with Thursday Night Live, Sunday Worship, and many Memorial Services in July and early August.
- All who are helping us stay connected, sane, faithful, healthy, and hopeful!

Prayers of New Life for:
- José Lain- Straus, starting as a freshman at Dominican University; Ethan Manske, leaving for Kenyon College; Tenzing Manske, starting at Georgetown University; Madelyn Kingston, starting in September at Carleton College.

Prayers of Thanks for the Lives of:
- Bobbie Smith whose Memorial Service will be Friday, August 5 at 10:30 am.
- David Payne’s husband Christopher Law, who died in late June and whose memorial was July 22.
- Pam Homer’s sister Paula, who died following a long siege with Parkinson’s.
- Gail Ansheles’ mother, who passed away in late June in New Jersey.

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:
- Debbie and Jim Maloney, as Debbie recovers from carotid artery surgery;
- Zach Zeilik (Kim Zeilik’s son) following surgery for two broken wrists following a biking accident;
- All living with Covid, and their family members and the nurses, doctors, and others who care for them;
- Persons living with cancer and those who love and care for them (David Smith, Anna Spalding, Maria Navarette’s father in Mexico, and others);
- Kathy Flynn, preparing for hip replacement surgery in mid-August;
- Episcopal Bishop Jeffrey Rowthorn and his wife Anne, as he recovers from hip surgery following a fall;
- 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; Brooke Roberts, Jan McGough, Ed Barker, and others living with chronic pain or chronic illness;
- 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 (Helen Natonabah McCabe, Yvonne Fairchild, Natalie Wells, Margo Clark, Linda Dillman, Helen Wagner, Karl Ray, Merry and Al Converse, Jere Turner, and others);
- Persons caring for family members, near and far: Dave Feldt, DiAna Gutierrez, Sam and Molly Elkind, Lauren Smith, 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), Jessie Lo (Taiwan), and others;
- The families and communities of Highland Park, Uvalde, Buffalo, and all others whose lives have been shattered by gun violence; and prayers for our legislators and others to have the courage to enact sane and safe gun restrictions;
- The people of Ukraine, Yemen, Somalia, and other countries impacted by war and violence; 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;
- Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation;
- Prayers for an end to the pandemic and an end to violence and war.

Congregational Care for August
On Call: Debbie Maloney: (940) 867-2169 (8/1-14)
John Shaffer: (814) 336-9353 (8/15-31)
Food: Debbie Maloney: (940) 867-2169 (8/1-14)
June Yoder: (505) 503-0555 (8/15-31)

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

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.

Summer Drive for the Food Depot
The Food Depot supplies schools, shelters, and agencies throughout Northern New Mexico with healthy food year-round. To help, bring any (or all) of these items to the church: jumbo-size containers of canned vegetables or fruit, pasta, rice for group meals; family-size packages, 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!

United’s Shelter Dinners Feed Homeless Persons and Support Santa Fe Businesses
Since the pandemic started, United has supported Santa Fe’s homeless shelters and local businesses and also kept people safe by providing 135 weekly meals from Felipe’s Tacos and “Mucho Gourmet” for the Interfaith Shelter and 35 meals each month for both St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia—totaling 14,400 burritos and 3,600 sandwich suppers or $95,150. Currently Interfaith only needs 50 burritos weekly from United. (Our support continues also for Casa Familia and St. E’s.) Your checks or online donations help this ministry continue. Please memo: “Shelter Dinners.” Thank you!

Supporting Our Diné/Navajo Brothers and Sisters
Your financial support for Covid relief work (food and cleaning supplies) and masks continue to make a difference. Donations are sent to United’s long-time partner, the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, in Fort Defiance, Arizona.

KITS FOR UKRAINE
Since February, United has raised over $20,000 and assembled 450 Church World Service hygiene kits for Ukrainian refugees. As the war continues, the need continues. Here’s how to help:
- Monetary donations help Church World Service buy supplies (food, diapers, etc.). You can donate online or with a check. (memo: Ukrainian people)
- Spread the word to friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family. We gladly receive financial support for the kits from the wider community. Thank you!

Archbishop John Wester Leads Interfaith Panel on Nuclear Disarmament
Tuesday, August 9 – 7:00 pm
St. Francis Cathedral
You are invited to an Interfaith Panel on Nuclear Disarmament, sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Santa Fe. Hosted by Archbishop John Wester, the panel includes several Santa Fe faith leaders, including Rev. Talitha Arnold, and will use Archbishop’s Wester’s Pastoral Letter on Disarmament as a springboard for discussion. All welcome.

LOVE CREATION
Care for Creation and Offset Your Carbon Use
United’s “Carbon Offset Program” helps plant trees and change policies to address global warming. It’s simple: Track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to Tree New Mexico and NM Interfaith Power & Light. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/post/unitedscarbonoffsetprogram.

Compost Collection – It’s a Miracle!
United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn food waste, meat scraps, etc. into rich, life-giving compost. Pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (NO standard plastic bags, please), fill them at home, and bring back to put in the green bin by the Children’s Garden. More things in the compost bin means less in the landfill. Info: call Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700) or visit reunityresources.com. Thanks!
Adult Faith Formation

**Pushing the Re-set Button**
**Small Group Opportunities this Summer**

At this point in the pandemic, says church consultant Jerry Henry, “local churches are way past pivoting.” Instead he affirms, congregations all across the country “have to push the re-set button and determine what their life and ministry will look like going forward. What do they need to do and be in order to be faithful to God’s call in this time and in this world?”

Jerry Henry, a former Methodist minister and graduate of Yale Divinity School, has worked with churches of all denominations and all locations, so he knows what he’s talking about. He’s also a good friend of United’s, who helped us develop a major endowment campaign a decade ago that enabled us to weather the financial upheaval of the last two years.

This summer, we’ll use Jerry’s wisdom as a plumbline for looking to United’s future. In the coming weeks, we invite you to join in one of multiple small gatherings (10-12 people) United is offering through August to share what have learned from the past 2½ years—and what God might be calling us to be about as a church as we look the future.

All gatherings will be outdoors or in the Community Room or Education Wing. For persons who aren’t comfortable meeting in person, we’ll also offer a Zoom alternative. United’s covid protocols will continue. We’ll also provide childcare as needed.

Several dates and times are listed below. We hope you’ll join in! Please register through the office (505-988-3295, unitedchurchsf@gmail.com), and when you register, if you are flexible in your dates, please give us the possible ones. Thank you!

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<td>Sunday, July 31</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 3</td>
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<td>Sunday, August 7</td>
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<td>Tuesday, August 23</td>
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**ADULT FORUMS**
**Sundays at 11:15 am**

**Preventing Gun Violence**
**August 7**
We welcome Miranda Viscoli, Co-President of New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence for a special presentation on what we can do individually and as a church.

**Push the Re-set Button**
**August 7 and/or August 14**
As we look to our church’s future, what do we need to keep in mind? As we face the new challenges posed by a new stage of the pandemic, what are the values and the faith to which we hold fast? Join with other United members and friends in small group conversations.

**August 21 – Baptism Cupcakes!**

**42nd Annual Meeting of the United Church of Santa Fe**
**In-person and Live-streamed**
**Sunday, August 28 at 11:15 am**
Join in—either in person or live-stream via Zoom—the 42nd Annual Meeting of the United Church of Santa Fe Sunday, Aug. 28, after the 10:00 outdoor service. We’ll give thanks for our life and ministry, recognize outgoing Council members, elect the new Council, and look to the future. Please register for either in-person or live-stream by noon on Friday, Aug 26. Link: https://youtu.be/WYeIto6M49Y. Annual Reports will be emailed and print copies available, too.

**Seeing the Faith of Northern New Mexico**
**Santeros Share Their Art**
In August, we welcome two well-known Northern New Mexico Santeros whose art has blessed United for many years. Santera Monica Sosaya Halford is renowned for her paintings on leather and her cocha work. Juan Jimenez’ santos of St. Francis and other saints and Biblical characters incorporate both traditional and modern themes. You’re invited to conversations with both artists this month:

Monica Sosaya Halford
Tuesday, August 2 (3:30 pm)

Juan Jimenez
Wednesday, August 10 (10:00 am)
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!

Livestream, Outdoor, and Indoor Worship Services Offered

United (even apart) Church is also United (outdoors and indoors) Church! This summer, we’ll continue to offer both the **10:00 am Sunday service in-person indoors** and also the **livestream of the service online** (access it on United’s website: unitedchurchofsantafe.org). We also offer an **8:30 am outdoor contemplative Communion service** (weather permitting). 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. For more information email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.