



**AMERICAN PRAYERS
FOR A TIME OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE**

Come, all who love this land.
Come, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
Come, all the merciful,
Come, all the meek, the gentle, the quiet and the kind,
Come, all the peacemakers,
Come, let us make this land the place
of justice and peace, mercy and kindness
God calls our country to be. Amen.



Cover my earth mother four times with many flowers.
Let the heavens be covered with the banked-up clouds.
Let the earth be covered with fog, cover the earth with rains.
Great waters, rains, cover the earth. Lightning cover the earth.
Let thunder be heard above the earth, let thunder be heard.
Let thunder be heard above the earth over the six regions of the earth.

-Zuni Prayer



Bless Thee, O Lord, for the living arc of the sky over me this morning.
Bless Thee, O Lord, for the companionship of night mist above
the skyscraper peaks I saw when I woke once during the night.
Bless Thee, O Lord, for the miracle of light to my eyes and the
mystery of it ever changing.
Bless Thee, O Lord, for the laws Thou hast ordained holding fast
these tall oblongs of stone and steel, holding fast the planet
Earth in its course and farther beyond the cycle of the Sun.

-Carl Sandburg



May the earth continue to live
May the heavens above continue to live
May the rains continue to dampen the land
May the wet forests continue to grow
Then the flowers shall bloom
And we people shall live again.

-Hawaiian Prayer

Para un niño (For A Child)

*Bendice a tu niño, Señor, con tu amor,
con tu esperanza, con tu valor, este día y todos los días.*

(Bless your child, Lord, with your love,
your hope, your courage, this day and every day.)

Monthly publication

United Church of Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

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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,

What does it mean to be an American?

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Finally, what does it mean to be an American Christian – or a Christian American?

As we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, I invite us to consider these questions, particularly in light of the growing claim that "America was founded as a Christian nation."

That statement would surprise many signers of the Declaration of Independence, particularly "Deists" like George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, or Ben Franklin. Some were members of a particular Christian tradition (e.g., Washington was an Anglican, Adams a Congregationalist), but they understood God as a Divine Wisdom or Creator and Jesus as an inspired teacher. Few had anything to say about the Holy Spirit :-).

Granted, other Signers were Evangelical Christians, and a few Roman Catholic, but there's no historical evidence that any of them advocated for specifically Christian language or theology in either the Declaration or the Constitution. So it is a bit curious to declare the U.S. as a "Christian nation" when none of our founding documents say anything about Christianity—or Jesus.

Moreover, many in the colonies were decidedly not Christian—Jews, Muslims, atheists, Indigenous people. If the Founders wanted to establish a "Christian nation," the founding documents should include a mandate to convert these non-Christians. Again, there's not a word about conversion anywhere in the documents that first shaped this nation. In fact, the Constitution could be considered an "anti-conversion" document since it emphasizes "freedom of religion" and the mandate for the government not to impose any particular religious belief or tradition.

Yet, two hundred and fifty years later, in the White House and Congress, political rallies and talk shows, comes the declaration that our country is a "Christian Nation."

So what does it mean to be Christian and be part of this nation. Are there points of overlap? What are the tensions? I invite us to consider these questions, not only on the 4th of July but in the months to come. Because if we, as part of the United Church of Christ, don't know what being Christian and American means, we might not like the answers of others.

Where to start? I suggest with "America the Beautiful," composed by the daughter of a Congregational (aka United Church of Christ) minister. Katherine Lee Bates was a professor of English literature at Wellesley College when she was inspired by an ascent of Pikes Peak to pen the first verse with its praise and thanks for the beauty, bounty, and possibilities of this land (echoing Psalms and Jesus' teachings about the earth). Then in subsequent verses, she offered a vision of America that ran counter to the reality of her time. Bates knew firsthand the Gilded Age's astronomical gap between rich and poor. She'd seen cities crowded with tenements and sweatshops, and immigrants who were demonized and dehumanized. But she hoped for and envisioned an America of gleaming alabaster cities, "undimmed by human tears." And she offered a national ethic to achieve that vision—"America, America, God mend thine every flaw. Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law."

Bates didn't talk about Jesus in her national hymn. She simply offered Jesus' vision for what human life should be, a vision shared by all faiths. A vision of brotherhood, sisterhood, otherhood, blessed by the grace and love of the Mystery we sometimes call God and a call, not to conversion, but to the commitment to nation that shares such blessings and bounty with all.

Have a Blessed 4th! (and 5th and all the days to come in this incredible land).

Blessings,



Worship in July

Spacious Skies and Mustard Seeds, Purple Mountains and Grains of Sand

We continue our summer focus on Creation’s wisdom and the lessons to be learned from exploring God’s world all around us. We also start the month with the celebration of our nation’s 250th Birthday—and continue throughout the days that follow giving thanks for the beauty, bounty, and blessed wisdom of this land to which we belong.



O Beautiful, O Blessed | July 5 – 10:00 Service only (and it’s outdoors)

In his first Inaugural Address to the nation, President Abraham Lincoln appealed to “the better angels of our nature” to heal the divisions that were leading to war. This Sunday of the Nation’s 250th Anniversary, we’ll do what angels do – sing! Old songs, new songs, national songs, sacred songs, songs of different regions and centuries sung by people of different backgrounds, races, ethnicities. Songs accompanied by drums, guitars and mandolins or just the human voice. Songs that shaped – and continue to shape—our nation. Most of all, songs that call us all to heed the “better angels” of ourselves as a nation. The United Pickers musically lead this outdoor service that brings together both the 8:30 and 10:00 congregations.



Abundance and Beauty Abound | July 12

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims the abundance and fruitfulness of God’s word – like the rain that nourishes the seed. (Isaiah 55: 10-33) The composer of Psalm 65:5-13 sings that God’s love and care water the earth and gird the hills with gladness. Wonderful reminders on a day we share Communion—with the gifts of God’s good earth—in both services. We’ll also sing songs from around the world in celebration of Santa Fe’s International Folk Art Market.



All Creation Groans | July 19

The Apostle Paul was a city boy, but as a Jew, he also knew the legacy of the Torah and the Prophet when it came to understanding our right relationship with Creation. (Romans 8:18-25) Jesus was a village boy, but given the deep roots of his Jewish heritage, his parables were filled with images from the natural world, including a parable about pulling weeds. (Matt. 13:24-30) Both Paul and Jesus were honest about what creation can teach us about beauty and blessings, and also about life’s challenges and hardships.



Everything in All Creation | July 26

At first glance, Paul’s majestic statement in Romans 8 (31-38) that “nothing in life nor death, powers or principalities can separate us from the love of God” is an unlikely pairing with Jesus’ parables from Matthew 13 about the realm of God being like a catch of fish, a pearl, or a mustard seed. But perhaps Jesus was reminding his listeners (and us) that God is as close to us as these everyday miracles—the fish of the sea, the tiniest of seeds, and a precious jewel made from a grain of sand irritating an oyster.



Music

Michelle Schumann, Director of Music / Pianist

Opera Singers, United Pickers, Drop-in Choir, and Lots More Musically This Summer at United

United's Music Ministry continues in a host of ways through the summer:

- **Sunday, June 28**, we welcome **Opera Apprentice** Sophia Baete, mezzo-soprano as our guest musician.
- **Sunday, July 5**, our **Outdoor Celebration of the U.S. 250th Birthday** features American folk music, offered by the **United Pickers** (i.e., guitarists, mandolinists, and banjo players).
- In celebration of "**International Folk Art Sunday**" (July 12), we'll sing of God's creation around the world and in a host of different languages. It's also "**Drop-in Choir Sunday**" so if you like to sing, come at 9:00 to rehearse and sing with the Choir in the 10:00 service.
- We welcome **Opera Apprentice** Kyle White, baritone, **Sunday, July 19**, and welcome back Pianist Jacquelyn Helin.
- We finish out July on the 26th (**Spanish Market Sunday**) with **Opera Apprentice** Matthew Juhlin, baritone, and hymns and songs from Spanish-speaking cultures and countries.

Mark your calendars and bring friends!



Benefit Concerts for the Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration

Tri M Productions, a local musical theater group, presents their "America for All" 4th of July concert, to benefit the Santa Fe Faith Coalition (immigrant support). **July 3, 7:00 pm** and **July 5, 2:00 pm** at St. Francis Auditorium, NM Museum of Art, 107 W. Palace Ave. For tickets, visit trimsantafe.org.

Children & Youth

Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministry

Thank You to All who Made Our First "Summer Arts Camp" Such a Success!

Fifteen children (many from the wider community) painted, created sun prints and books, did photography, cooked, wrote poetry, learned songs, and had a great time for a full week of United's first Summer Arts Camp. Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers who made it possible!



Praying in the Dirt (And Feeding Hungry Families) Children's Garden



The garden is planted, and parts of it re-planted due to hungry critters! There have been more signs of wildlife on our grounds this summer than last, so we've had to reinforce our garden beds to ensure we'll have veggies to harvest. Many thanks to Bob Ansheles and Donna Clark for spearheading these efforts.

Each Sunday, **Kids United** will weed, harvest and observe the fruits (and vegetables) of our labor. All produce from the Children's Garden goes to the Santa Fe Food Depot to provide nutritious food to people throughout Northern New Mexico. You can help United kids feed other kids (and their parents) by volunteering to take a week of watering, weeding, or harvesting this summer. Sign up in Community Room or contact Dana Bender (602-570-9709).

SUNDAY MORNINGS

In June, **Kids United** (1st -5th graders) started singing on Sunday—and will continue throughout the summer. Whether through song, drums, or other music making, we'll learn how music helps us to "Love God, Neighbor, and Creation!"

Also in June, we ramped up our **Nurture Center Ministry** (infants through Kinders) with the leadership of volunteer Tracy Church and Children's Aide Maria Navarette.

Mid-Summer Family Fun Water Night Friday, July 10 – 5:30-7:30 pm

It's hot! It's the end of the week and you want to escape the responsibility of food planning. What you REALLY want to do is join in a water balloon toss and get a little wet on a hot summer evening. Look no further! Come to the church and hang out for an evening of food, water games, and (I'm certain) lively conversation! Please contact Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com) or sign up in Community Room by July 6!

Care and Concern

Prayer of Thanks for:

- All who made United's first Arts Camp such a success—kids and volunteers alike had a great time and learned through music, photography, poetry, cooking, etc. etc. ways to express love for God and this world. Special thanks to Family Minister Dana Bender for the vision and the leadership to make it happen!
- All who helped with the visit of the **Matins Youth Choir** from Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ (Des Moines, Iowa)—from arranging the Sanctuary to hosting and supplying the Sunday lunch.
- **Bob Ansheles**, for painting parking lot bumpers and getting several items (windows, skylights, etc.) fixed.
- **Melanie Lohman** and the Immigration/Refugee Task Force for organizing two fine Sunday Forums.
- All United members and friends who marched in the **Pride Parade** (and Pam Hyde for organizing us) and those who cheered on the **Fuego baseball team** in June.

Congratulations and Blessings for:

- **Casey Rowan Haskin**, new grandson of **Cheryl and Dirk Haskin**, born in Florida.
- **Sasha Smucker**, a National Merit Scholar, and to both **Sasha and Luke Rand**, honored as “Super Scholars.”

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- **Bob and Judy Crawford**, following the death of Bob's sister Pat in Colorado; the family of **Mike Kaz**, whose Memorial Service was at the National Cemetery in June; **Jim Mills and Jennifer Walters**, following Jim's daughter's death; **Nyla and Larry Rasmussen**, following their brother-in-law's death; **Bob Meinershagen**, following the death of his wife Helen, whose cemetery service was in June in Kansas City.
- **Pam Hyde's brother Terry**, following a car accident in NYC; **Sarah Sawtell** recovering from two cataract surgeries; **Donna Johnson**, following knee replacement.
- Those dealing with ongoing health concerns (**Ken Lutz** and his partner **Kurt Burk**, as he deals with an auto-immune disease that causes inflamed arteries; **Avril Ekstrand's mother** under palliative care, and others).
- Persons dealing with cancer and those who love and care for them: **Danna Armstrong, 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 dealing with dementia or memory loss and those who love and care for them (**Sandra Johnson – Faye Granieri's mother**; and others).
- Persons in assisted living or memory care: **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 and families going through divorce or other family challenges.
- 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, and the families and individuals held in ICE detention centers and dealing with physical and mental illness, substandard food, and multiple issues.
- 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; the **Congo** and other countries impacted by the Ebola virus.
- For our Jewish neighbors and kindred following the attack on Temple Albert in Albuquerque.
- 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, LGBTQI+ 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 July:

On Call: Leslie Fagre: (505) 570-0273
Food: Cheryl Haskin: (503) 351-6561

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 are also welcome. Make checks to United Church (memo: Food Depot) or go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you!



Care for Creation, Care for Kids, and Feed Hungry Families Help with the Children's Garden

All the produce from the Children's Garden goes to the Food Depot. You can help by volunteering to cover a week of weeding or other garden tending. That helps feed hungry kids throughout northern New Mexico and helps United's kids learn to love God by loving neighbor and loving creation. Sign up in the Community Room or with Family Minister Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com). 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. Thank you!

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 July:

- **Six meatloaves**, feeding 10 people each (approx. 3 lbs.).
- **July 17 (Friday, 9:00 am) – Chop and Grate Casserole Making**; 1:00 pm Deliver meals to Casa Familia and St. Elizabeth Shelters.

LOVE GOD, LOVE CREATION

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. (\$8/100 miles or \$8/1 flight hour) More info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.



Santa Fe River Cleanup

Saturday, August 8 (8:30-10:00 am)

Join us to care for our corner of Creation. Meet at where Closson St. ends at the Santa Fe River. We provide donuts, coffee, and trash bags. You bring a hat, sunscreen, and gloves. Please sign up in the Community Room, call 505-988-3295 or email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. All Creation thanks you!

Adult Faith Formation

ADULT FORUMS — Sundays at 11:15 am

June 28 — *To Be LGBTQ+ and Christian*

On this Pride Sunday, a panel of United members and friends share their experiences and understandings as people of faith who are LGBTQ+ or have children or other family members who are. Plan to come for what promises to be a heartfelt and faith enriching conversation.

July 5 — *A BYOL Birthday Celebration!* *(Bring Your Own Lunch)*

On the Sunday after the 4th of July, we'll have red, white and blue cupcakes, fruit, chips, and drinks – bring your own picnic “entrée” (sandwich, salad, etc.) and join with your United community for an old-fashioned picnic!

July 12 — *The Other Madisons: The Lost History of a President's Black Family*

In 1990, Bettye Kearsse's mother designated her as her African American family's “Griotte” – the storyteller and oral historian to preserve the genealogies and traditions of her community. That role took Bettye, a pediatrician from Boston and part of the United Church community, all around the U.S. and to Ghana to Portugal to write what she describes as “a personal family history and an homage to millions of silenced, invisible African Americans.” Her book embraces a more inclusive and complete American story—a great focus for our nation in this time.

July 19 — *Keeping the Faith, Painting the Faith, Sewing the Faith: The Sacred Arts of Spanish New Mexico*

On this Sunday before Spanish Traditional Market, we welcome two renowned artists from Northern New Mexico, whose work is also part of United's sacred art collection. Julia Gomez is a “colcha” (embroidery) creator whose work has been displayed at the Smithsonian and who uses both handspun yarn and bear, bobcat, and wolf fur in her creations. Juanito Jimenez is an award-winning santero (painter) who also uses natural dyes and wood for his paintings of both traditional and contemporary saints and sacred stories. We are honored to have both artists as our guests!

July 26 — *Christian and American: What Does It Mean?*

A panel of United members and friends share their understandings of the dual identity as both Americans and Christians. Join this important conversation in this time of both words being defined in certain ways—and take time to consider what either mean for you.

GROUPS AND GATHERINGS

What Does the Bible Really Say About Forgiveness? Zoom Study Group* **Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:00 A.M. (MDT)*

Join people from around the country for an in-depth look at what the Bible says about the challenging (and often confusing) topic of “forgiveness.” It's not too late to join in! Register at: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.



Day Trip to Bosque Redondo Historic Site and Museum

Wednesday, July 1 – 7:00 am to 5:00 pm
There's room! (register by Sunday, June 28)

In 1864, the U.S. Army drove the Navajo/Diné people from their homeland in New Mexico and Arizona to Ft. Sumner in Bosque Redondo. The Long Walk of the Navajo is a hard truth of our nation's history. The Wednesday before the U.S. 250th anniversary, United offers a day trip to the Bosque Redondo Historic Site and Museum. We'll leave at 7:00 am, tour the museum and site, have lunch, then return. Sign up in Community. Room or at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Info: Talitha Arnold.



Reading New Mexico Study Group Forming

Interested in learning more about this history, culture, and challenges of New Mexico? Then sign up for a monthly “Reading New Mexico” study group. We'll explore a wide range of books by authors from different eras, backgrounds, and ethnic heritages to get a fuller picture of both Santa Fe and New Mexico. Sign up at church or write unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. More info? Contact Talitha Arnold

Pretty Good Guys Men's Study Group
Take a Summer Break
Pretty Good Guys will start up again in August.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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 Outdoor 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!