



Monthly publication

United Church of Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

August 2025

August Prayers

As Summer Draws to a Close . . .

Help us, Lord,
To revel in the waning days of summer.
Let us still soak up the long days and warm sun.
Guide our feet to walk on mountain trails and winding paths.
Open our eyes to blue skies and our ears to the singing of your birds.
As summer changes into fall,
 may our breathing still be easy and our hearts open.
Help us, God, to be present to all that is
 so we might best see all that might be.

From the Tewa Sacred Tradition

O our Mother the earth, O our Father the sky:
Your children are we and we bring you our lives.
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.
Thus weave for us a garment of brightness
that we may walk fittingly where birds sing,
that we may walk fittingly where the grass is green.
O our Mother the earth, O our Father the sky.

For Students and Teachers Going Back to School . . .

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;
 grace to risk something big for something good;
grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth
 and too small for anything but love.
So, may God take your minds and think through them;
 may God take your lips and speak through them;
 may God take your hearts and set them on fire.
Go with our blessing. Amen

Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Yale University Chaplain (1958 – 1975)
Benediction for Annual Opening Assembly

For All the Children of the World

Dear Lord,
We pray for all your children.
 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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**UNITED CHURCH
OF SANTA FE**

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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

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever. (1 Chronicles 16:34)

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever. (Psalm 100:5)

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever (Psalm 118:1-4, 29)

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever. (Psalm 136, all 26 verses)

Dear Friends,

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever. That sentence is repeated over thirty times in the Bible. Some variation of it appears another 30+ times. The promise of God's love enduring forever is affirmed more often than any other line of scripture. (Running a somewhat distant second is "Fear not.")

A seminary professor often reminded our class that when the Bible regularly affirms a promise, chances are good that trusting that promise has become problematic. Hence, the need for repetition. Not surprisingly, trusting that the steadfast love of the Lord was often a challenge for the Biblical writers. Spanning at least 2,000 years, the Biblical texts were written in times of war, famine, pestilence, drought, political uncertainty, exile, changes in leadership (both religious and national), imperial domination (whether the empire was Babylonian or Roman), persecution, etc., etc., etc.

Moreover, whether Psalm, Gospel, or Epistle, the listeners or readers might well have been going through personal hardship—the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, an illness, the ending of a relationship, a move, or some other kind of change over which they had no control—and which made it hard to trust that “the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.”

No wonder the Bible kept repeating that promise over and over and over again.

I think we need to repeat it as well. At least I do. Given the national rollercoaster we've been on since January, I need to remind myself time and again that *the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever*, even as so much of what I thought our country stood for is dismantled, the social safety net shredded, and we are seemingly powerless as immigrants and citizens alike are kidnapped by masked, unidentified men. I need to remember that God's steadfast love is at the center of our lives and our life together. Perhaps you need to remember that, too—because that's where we will find the courage and strength to do what we must do in this time.

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever. We also need to trust that promise in our life together as a church. In this time when a number of people are moving away from Santa Fe, and especially as we bid Godspeed and thanks to Director of Music Brad Ellingboe, may “the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever” be the Word that sustains us through such change.

Truth is, that steadfast love has been at the heart of United's life and ministry for the past 45 years. It's empowered us to weather hard times and rejoice in the good times. God's steadfast love is the foundation upon which this church was built, generation after generation. And it's the promise that will endure for generations to come.

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever. Let's trust that truth together.

Blessings,



Worship in August

Who Do We See When We See Jesus Christ?

“Long ago,” begins the Letter to the Hebrews, “God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets.” But in these last days, the author continues, “God has spoken to us by the Chosen One,” the Christ.

So what does this Christ say to us about God? That’s our focus for worship this month. We often know what we don’t want to say about Jesus Christ (and often think it’s easier not to say anything). But as a United Church of Christ, we need to know what we do say about Christ. As we look to a new year of life and ministry together, let’s take time this month to engage that question. The anonymous author of the Letter to Hebrews, written to early Christians in a time not unlike our own, can be a good guide.

Throughout the month, we’ll use both the *New Revised Standard* translation of the Bible and also the *First Nations Version*, an Indigenous translation of Christian Scripture.

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

The Promise of a New Covenant **August 3**

We don’t know who wrote the “Letter to the Hebrews,” when it was written or to whom it was addressed (definitely not “Hebrews” or other Jewish audiences). Evidence points to 2nd or 3rd generation Christians, struggling to keep the faith at the end of the 1st century. Rome still ruled, the Second Coming hadn’t come. Had God abandoned them? Not at all, the author affirms. Instead God had created a new way of connecting with God’s love and life through the life and love of Jesus Christ—a new covenant written on their hearts. (Heb. 1:1-3, 8:8-12)



The Promise of Accessible Holiness – August 10

Who is this Holy One? And how can we trust this unseen God with our lives? In this Letter, the Holy One is not some distant deity who doesn’t know human life. Instead, this One can sympathize with our weakness and suffering. This One has known life as we know it, with all its joys and sorrows. Therefore, the author pleads, “let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb. 4:14-16) Yes, we can trust God’s promise of Christ’s “accessible holiness.”

The Promise of Things Hoped For **August 17 (Indian Market Sunday)**



Writing to people in a time of oppression and fear, the anonymous author affirmed, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Or, as the *First Nations* version of Christian scripture translates, “Trusting Creator is the solid ground our hope rests on. It means we can be sure of the things we do not yet see.” (Heb. 11:1-3) Like the first Christians or the First Nations peoples, we may not see the way ahead in our time. Can we keep their faith that the Holy One is with us on our journey?

The Promise of Strength for the Journey – August 24

“We are surrounded by a great cloud of truth tellers,” wrote the anonymous author (*First Nations* trans.) “who have shown us what it means to trust the Great Spirit. So let us lay to the side everything that weighs us down and the broken ways that so easily wrap around our legs to trip us.” (Heb. 12:1-2) Who are our truth tellers? What weighs us down? And how do we keep going in this journey of life, hope, and faith?

The Work We’re Called to Do **Labor Day Sunday – August 31**

“Keep loving each other as brothers and sisters of the sacred family. Do not forget to be kind and welcoming to strangers.... Keep the ones in prison in your thoughts as if you were there with them, and those who are mistreated as if you in your own body shared their suffering.” (Heb. 13:1-3, *First Nations*) A good message for the Sunday before Labor Day, followed by a good promise for any day: “For the Great Spirit has said, ‘I will never leave you or give up on you.’” (Heb. 13:6)



Music

Bradley Ellingboe: Director of Music

The dog days of August are upon us, but sometimes I think summer worship is my favorite. I enjoy the relaxed rhythm of what the Catholics call “Ordinary Time.” The work of church musicians continues, albeit at an “Andante” tempo, instead of “Presto.” Here’s what’s planned for music this month.

On the first Sunday (August 3), United welcomes SFO Apprentice Ryan Wolfe, a baritone who hails from Arlington Heights, Illinois. The second Sunday (August 10) is our final Summer Drop-In Choir. If you like to sing—or know someone who does—we rehearse at 9:00 and sing in the 10:00 service.

Sunday, August 17, is Indian Market Sunday, and United has a special treat! LaVonne Yazzie, a member of the Diné nation and who sings with *Coro Lux*, provides the special music, including music from her culture. The fourth Sunday (August 25), the Smucker family of string players are our musical guests.

The special music for Aug. 31 (Labor Day Sunday) isn’t confirmed. We’ll begin choir rehearsals in late August to prepare for the United’s 45th Anniversary celebration Sept. 14. Stay tuned!

Brad



United is 45—and We’re Having a Party!
(Actually several parties!)
Save the Dates!



Friday, Sept. 12 (7:00 pm)
Lightning Boy Pueblo Youth Dancers



Sunday, Sept. 14 (2:00 pm)
Community-wide Service of Thanks and Renewal
Special Guests and Special Music!



Saturday, Sept. 20 (3:00 to 7:00 pm)
A Birthday Bash for the Whole Community
Bounce House, Games, Food Trucks, and more!

Children & Youth

Dana Bender: Family Ministries Director

The start to a new school year is just around the corner and so is the start of a new year of Children and Youth Ministry here at United. While a few details need to be ironed out, here are some highlights about what’s happening this year. **We need YOU and other passionate people to help with these programs!**

This Fall, **KIDS UNITED** continues meeting during the 10:00 service, following a pattern of “Love God, Love Neighbor, Love Creation” throughout the year.

- **“Love God”** Sundays will look like a traditional church school class. Story-based activities and crafts will enhance Sunday lessons.
- **“Love Neighbor”** Sundays will be once a month, centered around a service project – perhaps as simple as learning about organizations that help needy folks in our community OR organizing a health packs or food drive.
- **“Love Creation”** Sundays may involve a neighborhood morning hike, harvesting the garden, identifying plants and flowers outdoors, etc.

Interested in being a part of all of this? Please come to an informational meeting about Children’s Ministry on Sunday, August 10 after the 10:00 service. Potential teachers, leaders, helpers, hikers, and everyone else invited!



YOUTH INITIATES begin in September with a new program called **“Confirm, not Conform,”** built on the belief that Christian Faith should withstand honest engagement. Through lively discussions, the curriculum prioritizes faith formation over mere information, values questions more than predefined answers, and empowers youth to lead and teach.

Given that United has been without such a comprehensive Youth Ministry program for several years, “Confirm, not Conform” is offered to youth from 6th grade through high school. It will include a day retreat, mentors, service project(s), too! **For more info and a preview of the lessons, please attend an informational meeting about Youth Initiates/ Confirmation on Sunday, August 24 after the service!**

I hope to see you ALL at a special Blessing of Students and Educators on Sunday, August 10, during the 10:00 service!

I am very excited to get these and other events going at the church!

Dana



CARE AND CONCERN

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



Prayers of Thanks for:

- **Pam Hyde**, for organizing United's entry in the Pride Parade—and for everyone who marched or cheered us on!
- Interim Accountant **Tina Gibson**, who is helping organize United's multi-faceted financial administration.

Prayers for New Life for:

- **Aleisha Natonabah**, as she moves to Albuquerque to start cosmetology school and her **Aunt Tina and Uncle Albert's** move to Ft. Defiance, Arizona, where Albert and his late brother Christopher (Aleisha's dad) grew up.
- **Althea Pak**, the 6th grade daughter of Linda Pak and Craig Hay, who is singing in the Children's Chorus for the SF Opera's production of *La bohème* this summer.
- **Ailey and Luci Cassidy-Jones, Makayla Darby, Emily Glover, MLK Kingston, Nathan Kingston** as they all head back to college in the coming weeks.
- **Tiago, Carlos Lee and Russell Stowers'** exchange student from Italy, who is heading back to Italy.
- **Carlos Lee**, as he retires from a lifetime of service with the Santa Fe Public Schools.
- **Joan and Dave Doolittle**, who are moving to Alabama to be closer to family.
- **Jeri Lyn and Scott Manzanares**, who were married at United July 19.

Healing and Hope for:

- The families and communities of Ruidoso and in the Texas Hill Country, after devastating floods—those who grieve the loss of loved ones, those who must rebuild their lives, and all who are helping, including first responders from both sides of the Texas and Mexico border; RUIDOSO?
- **Judy Rainger**, following the death of her sister in July.
- Persons recovering from recent hospitalizations and those who care for them: **Maggie Popp**, as following knee replacement; **Carol Ingells** (and partner **Robert Spitz**) in rehab for ongoing health issues.
- Those dealing with continuing health issues and those who love and care for them (**Judy and Phil Laughlin, Zulema Zambrano and Larry Thorpe's daughter, Helen Natonabah McCabe, Ray and Nancy Lutz, Rev. Kathleen Jimenez, Greg and Linda Gaertner, Anna Spalding, Diane Bethune's brother Jeffery, Ann Noss (Marty Wilder's mother), Kay Burdette's grandson Max**, and others).
- Those with **memory loss** and all who care for them (including **Royce and Carolyn Stewart** as Royce comes under hospice care and moving to the memory unit at El Castillo; **Rev. Christine and Paul Vogel, Tony and Sarah Sawtell**, as Tony continues at Rio Rancho's Retreat; **Roger Knapp** at Montecito and **Linda Knapp** at Spanish Trails); persons living with Parkinson's or other neurological conditions (**Msgr. Jerome Martinez**, and others); those with chronic illness (**Brooke Roberts, Cynde Christie, Jan McGough**, and others).
- Individuals and families dealing with mental health, suicidal issues, 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 and crisis resources for people in distress.)
- All persons, families, hospitals, and food programs impacted by the cuts in Medicaid, SNAP and other federal social safety net programs.
- Persons who are imprisoned and those who love them.
- The people of Israel, Gaza, and the other Palestinian Territories, and Jews, Palestinians, and other Muslims living in the U.S. as war and violence continue; government and military leaders in Israel/Palestine, as well as the U.S. and other countries who need God's wisdom, guidance, and commitment to a just peace.
- Continued prayers for Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Ukraine, Central America, and other places also impacted by war; immigrants seeking asylum from violence; **policymakers** who determine their fate.
- Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation.

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 August



On Call: Margy Maira (252) 414-3311
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!



“Walk Around the Neighborhood” – Tuesday – August 5 (9:45 am)

United’s neighborhood includes medical and business complexes (hospital, clinics, offices). Let’s “get to know our neighbors” and extend an invitation to enjoy the peace and beauty of United’s grounds at lunchtime or before or after work. We’ll pair up for short walks to meet our “workaday” neighbors, then come back for a light lunch at 11:15 to share what we’ve learned. It’s a great way to know the neighborhood and share the blessing of United’s “corner of creation.” Sign up in the Community Room, at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com, or call 505-988-3295. Thanks!

Special Appeal for Flood Relief in Texas and Ruidoso, New Mexico

The tragedy, devastation, and loss from Texas’ Hill Country flooding is beyond belief. Our New Mexico neighbors in Ruidoso have also experienced death and destruction in recent floods. Through *One Great Hour of Sharing* (sponsored by progressive Protestant churches), we can help. This ecumenical offering can be designated for direct flood relief and rebuilding of communities. Donate by check (memo: flood relief) or online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you!

Many Thanks to All Who Helped Support the Immigrant Advocacy Ad

Over 80 United members and friends signed onto the immigration advocacy ad. That enabled us to run it in both Pasatiempo and also Sunday morning of Spanish Market Weekend.

United’s Shelter Supper Ministries Offer Food and Care

United provides supper (entrée, veggie casserole, salad, dessert) monthly to St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters. Want to help? Come to **“Chop and Grate” Friday, August 15 (9:30 am) and deliver food to the shelters at 1:00 pm**, or make meatloaf at home. Interested? Info: Pat Roach (proach102@comcast.net). Checks or online donations also welcome! (memo: shelter meals). Thank you!

Summer Drive for the Food Depot

The Food Depot supplies Northern N.M. schools, shelters, and agencies with good food year-round. Please bring non-perishable food for adults and/or infants. For cash donations, make checks to United Church (memo: Food Depot) or online: unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you!

Children’s Garden Vegetables for Food Depot, too!

Produce from the Children’s Garden this summer goes to the Food Depot to provide fresh vegetables in the food bags. Sign up to help! Also, if you have squash, etc. from your own garden, bring it to the church and we’ll get it to the Food Depot.



Supporting Our Diné/Navajo Brothers and Sisters

Financial support for food and gardening needs makes a difference. Donations are sent to United’s long-time partner, the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, in Fort Defiance, Arizona. (Memo: Navajo/Diné)

LOVE GOD, LOVE CREATION!

Planning Your Summer Travels? Join in United’s Carbon Offset Program

Help mitigate climate change by tracking car mileage and/or plane flight hours, then donate through United to support *Tree New Mexico’s* hands-on tree planting and *New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light’s* advocacy. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Compost Collection—It’s a Miracle!

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich compost. Compostable garbage bags at the church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please). Bring back full bags to put in green bin behind the church. Thanks!

Adult Faith Formation

45th Annual Meeting of the United Church of Santa Fe Sunday, August 3 at 11:15 am

We give thanks for our life and ministry, recognize outgoing Council members, elect new members, and look to the future. (Livestream: youtube.com/live/Qu5kzB4VU28) Annual Report available at church and via email (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

Summer Sunday Forums – 11:15 Sundays Joan Snider, Adult Faith Formation Chair

Sunday, August 10 – Two Forums!

United's Music Ministry: Past, Present and Future

Join United's Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe and Senior Pastor Talitha Arnold in conversation about United's music ministry and plans for the future.

What's Ahead in Children's Ministry

United's Family, Youth, and Children's Director Dana Bender, along with the Children and Youth Ministry Team, share what's planned for the coming year for "Kids United."



Conversation with LaVonne Yazzie Indian Market Sunday, August 17

We welcome soloist LaVonne Yazzie, a member of the Navajo/Diné Nation who is an Education Specialist at UNM's Center for Development and Disability and also active in Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Albuquerque. We'll discuss Indigenous sacred music and blending Navajo/Diné and Christian spiritual understandings. A great morning to invite friends!

Passage to Adulthood Youth Confirmation/Initiation Sunday, August 24

With Dana Bender's guidance, we're revving up our commitment with Middle and High School students. Even if you're not a youth or don't have teenage children or grandchildren, you can be a part of United's volunteer ministry to help guide and care for our youth as they get ready for life as an adult in this world.



"45" Gifts for 45 Years!

Over the last 45 years, United has been built through the generous stewardship of each generation of the church. We've also expanded the building and our ministries, and get through lean times, thanks to persons who included United in their estate planning (wills, trusts, etc.) and/or made direct gifts to the Endowment.

As we celebrate United's 45th Anniversary, we invite you to make a "Gift of 45" to United's Endowment—i.e., a donation of any multiple of 45 (e.g., \$4.50 or \$45 or \$450 or \$4,500 or even \$45,000 :-). Your contribution lays a financial foundation for the next 45 years—and beyond!

For info, please contact Endowment Chair Frank Wilbanks, Moderator Sarah Sawtell, or Pastor Talitha Arnold. Thank you!

Groups and Gatherings

What Does the Book of Revelation Reveal to Us in Our Time?

Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom

Revelation is one weird book. It's also speaks to our time. Join others from around the country this summer to unpack its meaning and wisdom. Info/register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. All welcome!

The Four Vision Quests of Jesus Pretty Good Guys

Wednesdays, August 13 & 27 (10:30 – 12:00)

Written by Episcopal Bishop and Choctaw Elder Steven Charleston, the book explores key events in Jesus' life through an indigenous lens. Info at church office (505-988-3285). Books for sale in Community Room.

Wednesday Women's Study Group Starts Again September 3 (with quite a reading list!)

The group meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month. All welcome! Interested? Contact Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, mommorton@gmail.com) or Jenn Wynn (home@wynnes.us, 817-219-0707).



THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
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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 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 Communion Service**. For indoor events, N95 masks are recommended. For more information about United’s programs, please call 505-988-3295, send an email to unitedchurchsf@gmail.com, go to our website. Thank you!