

A SERVICE OF THE WORD
Twenty-First Sunday of Pentecost

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

October 18, 2026
10:00 A.M.

God is already here.

For Reflection:

Jesus has been hijacked. The very Jesus who stood in his hometown and proclaimed, “The Lord has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor.” The very Jesus who told 5,000 hungry people that all people—not just those in the box seats—would be fed. The very Jesus who challenged the religious orthodoxy of the day by feeding the hungry on the Sabbath, who offered kindness to the prostitute and hospitality to the outcast, who raised the status of women, and who treated even the despised tax collector as a citizen of the kingdom. . . .

The struggle for a just world goes on. It is not a partisan affair. God is neither liberal nor conservative, Republican nor Democrat. To see whose side God is on, just go to the Bible. It is the widow and the orphan, the stranger and the poor who are blessed in the eyes of the Lord; it is kindness and mercy that prove the power of faith, and justice that measures the worth of the state. Kings are held accountable for how the poor fare under their reign. Prophets speak to the gap between rich and poor as a reason for God’s judgment. Poverty and justice are religious issues, and Jesus moves among the disinherited.

Journalist and Ordained American Baptist Minister Bill Moyers
accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Baptist Churches

WE GATHER

(May the first note of the Prelude be a call to silent prayer as we prepare for worship.)

Gathering Music

Nocturne
Here I Am, Lord

Edvard Grieg
Daniel Schutte arr./ John Carter

*Introit

This Little Light of Mine (2x)

African American

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I’m gonna’ let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

Breathing in and Sharing God’s Gifts *Blessings for this Blessed Day!*

Sharing God’s Peace and Regathering ***This Little Light of Mine*** (1x) African American

Breathing in God’s Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship *God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak* Frances Ridley Havergal/R. Schumann

Call to Worship from Psalm 96 (congregation bold)

O sing to God a new song;

Sing praise, all the earth!

Sing, and bless God’s name; tell of God’s salvation from day to day.

Declare God’s glory among the nations, and marvelous works among all peoples!

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

Let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before God,

For God comes to judge the earth.

God will judge the world with integrity and the peoples with truth.

Come, people, trust in the God of all creation. Find your voice to proclaim God’s ways.

*Hymn

8

Praise to the Living God (vs.1-3)

George Elvey/Curtis Beach

WE PREPARE

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

We praise you, O God, that by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have delivered us from the power of death, making us alive to serve you. Free us from pride of self that we may live in community with one another and with all your people. Free us from fear of principalities and powers of this world that we may live and speak with courage, guided by your Spirit. Keep us rooted and grounded in your love, and fill us with the power of your Spirit. Be glorified in our life together that all people might see your love and your hope in their lives. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance and Grace

*Our Song of Praise

Praise to the Living God

Diademata

*Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.*

Blessing of the Children

WE ENGAGE

From a Letter to a (Fairly) New Christian Church

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Creator your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters, beloved by God, that God has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for the Christ from heaven, whom God raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Hymn 522

I Love to Tell the Story (1-2, 4)

Katherine Hankey/William G. Fischer

Sermon

Finding Our Voice

Silent Reflection

Musical Response 528

Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)

Id Y Ensenad/Cesareo Gabarain

(The choir begins with the 1st Spanish verse and refrain. The congregation joins for the first two English verses and refrains.)

WE RESPOND AND RECEIVE

Offering Ourselves in Prayers (*We conclude with the Lord's Prayer. Please pray any version.*)

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

Use Me, Lord

Sheldon Curry

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 76

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf/Welsh Folk

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory.

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We hope you'll also join in the fellowship time after the service. If you're visiting today, we're glad you're here! Please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Director of Music/Pianist; the United Choir directed by John Tiranno; Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministries; Blanca Surgeon, Liturgist. Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator, and volunteer Frank Wilbanks, coordinated the livestream. You were welcomed by Louise Cavatta, Blanca Surgeon, Rosemary Thompson, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

TODAY AT UNITED

Children's Ministry

- Nursery care for **infants and toddlers** (offered by Maria Navarette) and a time of songs, prayers, and stories for **Pre-K's and Kinders** (led by Tracy Church) is in the Nurture Center Sunday mornings, starting at 9:45.
- Following the "Song of Praise and Blessing of Children," **elementary-age children** are invited to ***Kids United*** where they explore ways to remember our loved ones through traditions like All Saints Day and *Día de los Muertos* and make paper flowers for their ofrenda.

Two Sunday Forum Opportunities – 11:15

Sending Love to Our College Students (Learning Center)

Children, Youth, and adults are all invited to come and enjoy time together—**over food** ☺—to assemble care packages and write notes to be sent to United's young adults away at college. It's also a great way to meet new people!

The Midterm Elections – What's at Stake? (Education Wing)

Rev. Gary Kowalski, retired Unitarian Minister and member of Indivisible Santa Fe, offers a presentation and discussion about the upcoming midterms. What's happening around the country? What are the concerns? What can we do to make a difference?

Make United's Welcome a Real Deal!

We want to be a welcoming community every Sunday—we need your help to do that! Sign up today to greet/usher. It's a great way to meet new people and make new friends. Thanks!

The Week Ahead

Wednesday Women's Study Group – Oct. 21 at 10:00 am

From September through May, the group reads lots of great books. We meet to discuss them on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (10:00 to 11:30 am). You're invited to join in! This month's book is *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. For info: Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, mommorton@gmail.com), Jenn Wynn (817-219-0707, home@wynnes.us).

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals – Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and sings in the 10:00 service Sunday (9:00 rehearsal). All welcome! Please contact Music Director Michelle Schumann (unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com) or Choral Director John Tiranno (unitedchurch.john@gmail.com).

Forgiveness, Hope and Resilience – Zoom Bible Study Group **Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:00 am (MDT)**

We're exploring what Jesus and Christian scripture said about forgiveness. All welcome.
To register, email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

United Youth Ghost Ranch Retreat October 23-24

Members of United Church's Youth group head to Ghost Ranch this Friday evening for a time of fun, food, hiking, planning, and communing with God's creation.

Congregational Care – What's Needed? How Can United Help?

Adult Forum Next Sunday, October 25 (11:15 am)

The Congregational Care Team (June Yoder, chair) invites all to a special forum focused on the changing and increased needs for pastoral care in our congregation. Those needs have increased four-fold over the last ten years. Whether you're a young parent balancing work and raising children or an older adult facing decisions about health care and living situations, we want to engage your thoughts and ideas for strengthening this important part of United's ministry.

Coming Up in the Coming Weeks

Tour Santa Fe's Food Depot – Tuesday, Nov. 10 – 9:30 am

Last year, The Food Depot's hunger-relief programs and partner agencies distributed *10 million pounds* of food across Northern New Mexico. Join United's tour of the Depot on Tuesday, Nov. 10 and find out how they do it! (And what we can do to help.) Sign up at church or at 505-988-3295.

Welcoming New Members – Sunday, November 8

On the second Sunday of November, we welcome new members into the United Church of Santa Fe. If you are interested in "officially" joining United, please speak with Rev. Talitha Arnold or Discipleship Chair Diane Darby. Thank you!

Moses and Jesus Go to the Movies – Renesan Series with Talitha Arnold

10:00 am Thursdays – Nov. 12 & 19

Throughout our history, American authors and movie directors have drawn upon both Jewish and Christian scriptures for themes, plots, and scenes. Through short readings, film clips, and visual art, Talitha Arnold explores the impact of ancient sacred texts on U.S. movies, particularly Melville's *Moby Dick* and Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. Info/Registration: renesan.org/moses-and-jesus-go-to-the-movies/.



LOVE GOD BY LOVING CREATION

United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change

Track car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and the *Santa Fe Watershed Association* for their environmental advocacy and hands-on care for God's good earth and generations yet to come. (\$8/100 miles driven; \$8/3 hours in the air). Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle! (And it helps mitigate climate change.)

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Two ways to help: 1.) Please use the compost containers in the Community Room and education rooms for your coffee cups, napkins, or plates from Fellowship Time or church meals. They're all compostable. 2.) Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and then put in green bin in back of the church.

Love God by Loving Our Neighbors (and keeping them warm this winter)

Clothing and Blanket Drive

Clean out your closets this fall and bring new and gently used jackets, sweaters, hats, mittens, and blankets to the Church. They'll go to St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters, Interfaith Community Resources, and Nava Elementary School. Kids can help, too—with their outgrown jackets, etc. You can also make a financial donation by check (please memo: "Clothing/Blankets") or at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Spread the word to neighbors and friends and invite them to join in United's "Keeping Our Neighbors Warm" drive. Using the Church as a central clearing house makes donating easy!

You can also lend a hand sorting and delivering. Please email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or call 505-988-3295 to say you'll help!

Thank you!!

Cybersecurity Tips for Emails and Texts

Churches and church members aren't immune to scams, hacks, and phishing. Some ways to reduce the risk:

- Church staff will never write you directly for your credit card information or ask you to purchase a gift card. If the email address does not begin with "unitedchurch," it is a scam. For texts, check the phone number. Either way, call the person it claims to be.
- Once confirmed that the email or text is a scam, please report it as phishing to your email provider or report a phishing text by texting 7726.

When in doubt, don't open the text or email—contact the person it claims to be from directly