

Monthly publication  
 United Church of Santa Fe  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico  
 October 2021

**PRAYERS FOR A NEW SEASON**

God, stir the soil,  
 Run the ploughshare deep,  
 Cut the furrows round and round,  
 Overturn the hard, dry ground,  
 Spare no strength or toil,  
 Even though I weep.  
 In the loose, fresh mangled earth,  
 Sow new seed.  
 Free of withered vine and weed  
 Bring fair flowers to birth.

Christian Church of Singapore

This day wilt Thou strengthen us.  
 This day wilt Thou bless us.  
 This day wilt Thou uplift us.  
 This day wilt Thou visit us for good.  
 This day wilt Thou inscribe us for happy life.  
 This day wilt Thou hear our cry.  
 This day wilt Thou accept our prayer in mercy and favor.  
 This day wilt Thou support us with Thy righteous hand.

Morning Litany for the Jewish New Year

Deep peace of the Running Wave to you.  
 Deep peace of the Flowing Air to you.  
 Deep peace of the Quiet Earth to you.  
 Deep peace of the Shining Stars to you.  
 Deep peace of the Christ of Peace to you.

Celtic Christian Tradition

Here am I, Lord. Send me.  
 Thuma mina. Send me, Lord.

Prayer of the Prophet Isaiah and of South Africa

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**UNITED CHURCH  
OF SANTA FE**

**A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**The Rev. Talitha Arnold**  
*Senior Pastor*

**Kimberly Zeilik**  
*Moderator of the Congregation*

**Pamela Hyde**  
*Moderator-Emerita*

**Jacquelyn Helin, D.M.A.**  
*Music Director and Pianist*

**Bradley Ellingboe**  
*Director of Choirs*

**Elijah Marquez**  
*Videographer/Youth/  
Administrative Asst.*

**Lin Raymond**  
*Office Administrator*

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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

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Dear Friends,

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,” wrote the author of the Letter to the Hebrews, “the conviction of things not seen.” Or as Clarence Jordan translated the passage in his *Cotton Patch Gospels*, “Faith is turning dreams into deeds; it’s betting your life on unseen realities.”

Three years ago, when we dedicated United’s new education wing—after a decade of planning, fundraising, and construction—who could have foreseen that a whole class of bilingual first graders would have “virtual school” in the Youth Room all last year during the pandemic?

Four years ago, when we celebrated the church landscaping project—after years of planning, planting and construction (and several landscape firms :-)—who could have foreseen we’d need to worship outdoors for the past 6 months?

Twenty-five years ago, when United started to develop a partnership with the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Ft. Defiance, Arizona, who could have foreseen the terrible toll the coronavirus would take among the Diné/Navajo people, or how important that partnership would become in this time?

Building a church is an ongoing act of faith, of turning dreams into deeds and betting our lives and the life of the congregation on unseen realities. It’s continually planning for God’s future, even if we seldom know what the future will bring. That’s true whether we’re doing a one-time construction project or building the community, year by year, week by week—and this year, chair by chair.

We can’t predict how the physical spaces we build will be needed in the future. Nor can we know what being connected to this congregation will mean to someone on their life’s journey, what strength they derive, what hope they need.

We also don’t know fully how the wider community of Santa Fe and beyond will continue to depend on United to be a beacon of hope and an anchor of faith in an ever-changing and often tumultuous world.

What we do know is that if we continue to build the United Church of Santa Fe on a foundation of faith—meaning a deep trust in God, a commitment to follow in the life-giving ways of Jesus, and an openness to God’s lively and powerful Spirit—we and the generations that come after us will be ready for the future.

Thank you for continuing to lay that foundation of faith. Thank you for having “the conviction of things hoped for, the assurance of things not seen.” Thank you for being willing to turn dreams into deeds and bet your life and the life of this church on the unseen realities of God’s future.

Blessings,



# Worship in October

## *A Desert Faith for a Desert Time*

As people of faith in the high desert of Northern New Mexico, we have two deep sources of strength and hope. One is the Bible, a book filled with stories and teachings that are rooted in the dry lands of the Middle East. The other is the dry land in which we live. But we also know that deserts are not limited to geography. They can instead be defined by the circumstances of our lives, be it a pandemic or racial injustice, climate change or refugee crises.

This fall, we draw upon both the Bible and our desert landscape to deepen our Desert Faith. We invite you to join in—and bring a friend to outdoor worship or share the virtual service with them. Perhaps they need a desert faith in their time as well.



### ***St. Francis Sunday – October 3*** ***Blessing of the Animals*** **9:00 to 12:00 noon (at United Church)** **Recorded worship service online**

The first Sunday of October traditionally incorporates the Blessing of the Animals, as it is the Sunday before St. Francis Day (Oct. 4). United will offer the Pet Blessing from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon that day, but will not have an in-person worship service. You are invited to come anytime between 9:00 and 12:00 with your pets (leashed or caged) or a picture of your pet, for a time of blessing. United will also offer the recorded service online for that Sunday.

### ***Lessons from the Desert: Wonder and Awe*** **October 10**

“When I gaze up on the moon or see your stars,” proclaimed the composer of Psalm 8, “who are we that you should care for us?” Similarly, Francis of Assisi sang to “Brother Sun and Sister Moon.” For all their harsh fearsomeness, deserts can also evoke wonder and awe. Sometimes a desert can be the place where we see God’s works clearly for the first time. Communion is celebrated this Sunday.

### ***No Place to Hide (and so we are found)*** **October 17**

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” a rich young man asks of Jesus. (Mark 10:17-31) Maybe it was a trick question his friends dared him to ask the new teacher. Maybe he was bored and wanted to show off his prestige at Jesus’ expense. Or perhaps, as odd as it was for a twenty-something to be worried about eternity, he really wanted an answer. Perhaps his young life, with all its wealth and power, felt like a desert. But Jesus’ answer telling him to give up his possessions proved to be too much of a desert, and he walked away even more empty. Deserts offer no place to hide, writes Terry Tempest Williams, and “so we are found.” I’d like to think that finally happened for the young man—and can happen for us, too.

### ***Lessons from the Desert: Dependency*** **October 24**

“They that dwell in the secret place of the Most High,” proclaims Psalm 91, “shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” The mighty Saguaro of the southwest offer many secret places for other creatures to hide and abide. Cactus wrens build nests in the crook of their arms, using the cactus spines to keep snakes and bobcats at bay. Other birds use the Saguaro “shoes” (holes in the cactus). Yet even these giants of the desert are dependent on other desert plants. A baby saguaro often grows under a palo verde, relying on the tree’s shade as protection from the sun. Desert places and times remind us of our dependency on others, on the rest of creation and on the Creator.



### ***Riparian Faith Communities*** **October 31—Reformation Sunday**

Whenever the Bible speaks of joy and rejoicing, there’s generally water involved. Psalm 126 sings of the people’s return from exile and compares their joy to “the watercourses of the Negev.” Isaiah 35 proclaims that God will cause the desert to bloom and waters to spring forth in the desert. Throughout both Hebrew and Christian scripture, offering water to others is an offer of life itself. On Reformation Sunday, we celebrate the ways God renews our life as a congregation. Being a river in the desert, a watercourse in the Negev, a “riparian faith community”—good images for being a church in this desert time.

### ***Worship this Fall: Outdoor or Indoor?***

What happens to in-person worship when it’s too cold to continue outdoors? That’s the \$60,000 question this fall. We are currently planning for indoor worship starting in late October or early November, but there are many variables—so as you have for the past 19 months—stay tuned! (Recorded services are continuing for the foreseeable future.)

## Music Notes

*Music... will help dissolve your perplexities and purify your character and sensibilities, and in time of care and sorrow, will keep a fountain of joy alive in you.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

German Lutheran Pastor and Theologian

I sit down to write this newsletter column, still enjoying the memory of today's "Fiesta of Song," organized by Director of Choirs (and bass) Bradley Ellingboe and Talitha Arnold, with Choral Scholars Jonathan Davidson and Rebecca Brunette; and Kathleen Wilson, subbing for Gabby Dietrich. Besides their wonderful 4-part singing, there were the voices of all of you, as we sang our way through this service!

This was one of those Sundays, and there are many, where I feel blessed by the music-making we do at United. It's one way I think we've made it through the last 18 months, and will continue to be so in the months to come.

Although we said goodbye to Jonathan, whose full-time work commitments necessitate stepping back from his United role, we welcome Steve Kerchoff, new bass, and Curtis Storm, new tenor.

Our combined outdoor Choir continues to sing (in various configurations) for Sunday services through October. Come and join in the music!



Jacquelyn Helin  
Music Director/Pianist

### "FebFest" IS COMING!

For several years, United Church has joined with Albuquerque's *Coro Lux* to offer a midwinter choral festival over the January Martin Luther King weekend. The two-day "JanFest" included workshops on choral technique, lectures, and rehearsals, culminating in a concert with a free-will, charitable offering. As JanFest evolved, it took on the character of emphasizing the music of African Americans and the intertwined topics of racism and social justice.

We plan to continue these offerings in 2022 but have moved the festival to February and renamed it "FebFest." This year I'm delighted our special guest is Rosephanye Powell, an internationally recognized composer, conductor, vocal soloist, and educator. Her works are sung by the top choruses in the country. As a conductor she's led festivals around the globe. As a professional singer, she's an expert in the Spiritual tradition. And as an educator she's Professor of Voice at Auburn University. To learn more about Dr. Powell, go to [rosephanyepowell.com](http://rosephanyepowell.com).

FebFest takes place at United Church of Santa Fe, Saturday and Sunday (Feb. 19 & 20, 2022). The event is open to all on first-come/first-served basis. For info, contact me or Pastor Talitha Arnold or go to [abqcorolux.org](http://abqcorolux.org).

Bradley Ellingboe  
Director of Choirs



## GOD LOVES YOU and SO DOES YOUR CHURCH!

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

#### "God loves you – and so does your Church!"

That's the main message we want to give our children, youth, and parents this fall. Given the pandemic surge, the delta variant and the fact that kids under 12 can't get vaccinated yet, planning for Children's and Youth Ministries is a bit challenging. But one thing remains certain – we want our kids (and their parents) to know that their church community cares for them.

We're doing that in some special ways....

#### Simple Family Suppers

Once a month, United would like to provide a simple, possibly home-made, take-home supper for United families. That gives hard-working, juggling-everything parents a break and feeds the bodies and souls of both kids and parents. If you'd like to help by cooking or shopping, please let Talitha Arnold know.

#### St. Francis Weekend

#### "Drop-by Outdoor" Pet Blessing Sunday, Oct. 3

9:00 am-12:00 noon

All kids of all ages (and their parents) are invited to the outdoor Pet Blessing on St. Francis weekend. Pets need to be leashed or in a crate. People need to be masked. All welcome! 🐾



#### Drop-by Halloween Trick or Treat

#### Outdoors at the Church

Sat., Oct. 30 (3:00-6:00 pm)

Before your kids go trick or treating in your neighborhood, bring them to the church so we can take their pictures and they can get some treats! Let us know you're coming. Thanks!



#### Coming of Age in Corona-time United's Youth Ministry

We had planned the *Rite of Initiation* for our nine Youth Initiates for last May. Those plans had to change. We then planned it for this November. Those plans had to change. But we're determined one way or another to mark their rite of passage into adult life and adult faith – so stay tuned!



# CARE AND CONCERN

## PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



### Prayers of Thanks for:

- > **David Feldt**, for overseeing the re-painting of the Sanctuary and repair of the acequia;
- > The **Children, Youth and Adults** who led our “Education Sunday service with the “ABC Prayer”;
- > The **Outdoor Choir(s), Choral Scholars, Brad Ellingboe, and Jacquie Helin** for worship music throughout this past summer and September.

### Prayers of Blessings and New Life for:

- > **Dave Wilkison**, two of whose paintings selected for New Mexico Watercolor Society’s National Fall Show;
- > **Sharon Elias and Janice Ballard**, who are moving from Santa Fe to Fort Collins, Colorado.

### Prayers of Healing, Hope, and Strength for:

- > The people of **Afghanistan**, facing violence and dire uncertainty; migrants and refugees at the border of the U.S.;
- > The people and natural world of **Greece, the U.S. West**, and other places devastated by climate-change related fires;
- > The people of **Haiti**, recovering from the earthquake and people of the **Southern U.S., New York, and New Jersey**, recovering from storms (including **Pam Hyde’s brother**);
- > All persons impacted by Covid19, including health care workers facing the new surge;
- > **The Juarez-Muñoz family in Mexico** (friends of Jim and Debbie Maloney), dealing with violence and kidnappings;
- > **A young man and his family**, going through a very difficult and troubling time;
- > **Cindy Knox and Trudy Swint**, following the death of Cindy’s mother in Kansas; the family of **James Monson**, a friend of United’s, whose memorial service will be October 3;
- > **Cynde and Bob Christie**, as Bob recovers from a bicycle accident and Cynde from outpatient surgery; **Nancy Paraskevas**, recovering from a broken arm; **Roger and Linda Knapp** as Roger concludes cancer treatments; **Shirley Clark and Rafaelita Bachicha**, as Shirley undergoes cancer treatments and Rafaelita awaits a decision about heart surgery; **Anna Spalding (Jody and Peter’s daughter in California)** and **Jody’s brother**, both dealing with cancer; all other persons anticipating surgery or other treatments;
- > Those with memory loss and all who care for them;
- > **Cliff Beck, Sandy Vermillion, Monsignor Jerome Martinez, Lin Raymond’s brother**, and others living with neurological conditions; **Ed Barker, Julie Ann Grimm’s husband**, and others living with chronic pain;
- > Individuals and families dealing with mental health issues, including severe depression (If you or a loved one is struggling emotionally, 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 (**Yvonne Fairchild, Bobbie Smith, Margo Clark, Linda Dillman, Helen Wagner, Natalie Wells, Carol Ingells and Robert Spitz, Tracye Cooney**, and others);
- > Persons caring for family members, near and far: **Rebecca Griego, DiAna Gutierrez, Sam and Molly Elkind, Lauren Smith, Pam Homer, Sherry Kelsey, Gloria and Terry Griffin, Sam Gerberding, Kim Zeilek**; 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), and others;
- > Immigrant children, teenagers, and adults fleeing violence and poverty, seeking refuge in our country; **policymakers** who determine their fate;
- > Families and communities who lost loved ones to gun-violence;
- > Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation;
- > Prayers for an end to the pandemic, especially in India, Brazil, and other hard-hit countries;
- > **Prayers for rain in this thirsty land and prayers for ourselves to make wise use of God’s gift of water.**

### Congregational Care for October



**On Call: June Yoder (505) 503-0555**  
**Food: Debbie Maloney (940) 867-2169**

### 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](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com))





**Live Generously, Connect Deeply!**  
**2022 Campaign for United**  
**(Online and In-person)**

United’s annual Stewardship Drive funds ALL of United’s ministries, helping us, individually and as a community to share God’s gifts with others. Kicking off on Sunday, October 17, this year’s campaign will be a hybrid of in-person small gatherings, virtual good words, and Sunday morning sharings. It all culminates in a celebration, in-person and online, on Sunday, November 14!

Watch for upcoming announcements and please keep the Campaign in your prayers! Thank you!

**Special Outreach Gifts Aid Immigrants**

Since last spring, First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) in Albuquerque was providing sanctuary in their church basement for two young Honduran men who escaped the violence in their country. In June, the city sewer line backed up and flooded the church. Although the church’s insurance covered most of the clean-up, it didn’t cover the expenses of the two men (who lived with the minister for six weeks). In July, we sent \$1,000 from the church’s “Pastor’s Fund” to cover those expenses.

United has also sent (from the Pastor’s Fund) \$1,000 to Church of the Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, Arizona, to help with the increased need at the U.S./Mexico border, and additional legal funds for a young immigrant woman facing deportation to El Salvador (which her family left over a decade ago).

**Compost Collection for Creation!**

United offers a compost collection service. Bring your compostable products to deposit anytime (easy access from the church parking lot) in the green bin. Also, pick up compostable garbage bags at the church. (Please do **NOT** deposit standard plastic bags.) Questions about what goes in the bin? Go to [reunityresources.com](http://reunityresources.com) or call Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700). Thanks!

**United’s Carbon Offset Program**

Track your mileage and donate to United’s Carbon Offset Program. Donations go to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and *Tree New Mexico*, both addressing climate change. More info at [unitedchurchofsantafe.org/post/unitedscarbonoffsetprogram](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/post/unitedscarbonoffsetprogram).

**THANKS TO YOU. . . . !**

Since the beginning of this year, United members and friends have contributed over \$53,000 to our outreach partners in Santa Fe and around the world.

**CARING FOR OUR SANTA FE NEIGHBORS**

For the guests of Santa Fe’s **Shelters (Interfaith, St. E’s, Casa Familia)**: \$33,019  
 For school supplies through **Communities in Schools**: \$850  
 For **Northern New Mexico Food Depot**: \$1,310



**CARING FOR OUR GLOBAL NEIGHBORS**

For covid relief for our **Dine/Navajo** friends: \$12,115  
 For **Haiti Earthquake** relief (through Church World Service): \$3,115  
 For **Afghani refugee resettlement** (through CWS): \$2,545



**CARING FOR GOD’S CREATION**

For **New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light** and **Tree NM** (for climate action) through our carbon offset program: \$513  
 For **Re-unity Resource composting program**: Priceless :-)



**To join in, please go online to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) or send a check to: 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Designate your gift for any of the above programs. Thank you!**

# Adult Faith Formation



Tulsa Massacre 1921

## ***Race Reckoning***

**Six Thursdays, Oct. 14 – Nov. 18  
(12:00 Noon – in-person at United)**

Join Larry Rasmussen, Lib O'Brien, and Pat Roach, in exploring two books on race in America: James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* (1964) and Don Lemon's *This Is the Fire* (2021). Class size limited; participants must commit to full course. Interested? Please contact the church ([unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com), 505-988-3295).

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## ***Renesan Courses in November***

Register at [www.renesan.org](http://www.renesan.org).  
(Classes at St. John's Methodist Church)

### ***Miriam, Mary, and Mary: Holy Women, Complex Lives***

**Tuesdays: Nov. 2, 9, 16 – 3:15 -5:15 pm**

Miriam of Egypt, the sister of Moses. Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus. Mary of Magdala, the apostle to the apostles. Three women whose stories were first told in the patriarchal cultures of their time. Three women whose stories still inspire, challenge, and raise questions. Join Talitha Arnold in an exploration of their lives—and our own.



### ***Aleksandr Pushkin's Eugene Onegin*** **Wednesdays: Nov. 3, 10, 17 – 3:15 -5:15**



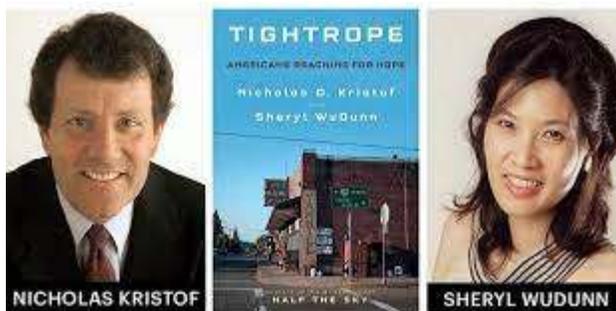
Enter into an exploration of one of the great works of world literature—a story of a man who has everything that should make him happy; intelligence, wit, wealth, good looks, but who is filled with cynicism and ennui. Robert Glick unpacks this challenging and enriching powerful book.

## STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

**Pandemic protocols require that all participants sign up by 5:00 pm the day before the group meeting at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).  
Thank you!**

### **Wednesday Women's Study Group Oct. 6 and 20 – 10:00 am**

All women are invited to join the discussion of *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope* by New York Times reporter Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn (in-person, all windows open, masked, and socially distanced). For info: Marcia Gardner: 505-670-5186, [marcia.chavez3@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.chavez3@gmail.com))



### **Pretty Good Guys**

**Wednesdays, Oct. 13 and 27 (10:30 – noon)**

We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays outside (weather permitting) or indoors with masks. All men welcome! We get know one another by talking about our lives and spiritual journeys. Newcomers have no trouble participating right away! For info: Ken Bordner: 585-734-4548, [ken.bordner2@gmail.com](mailto:ken.bordner2@gmail.com).



### ***Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls*** **Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MDT) on Zoom**

Exercise your mind and your soul every Thursday morning by exploring the scripture stories for the upcoming Sunday. Join in to deepen your faith and share the journey. All welcome!

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE**  
**A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**1804 Arroyo Chamiso - Santa Fe NM 87505**

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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 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!

### **BOTH RECORDED AND OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED**

United (even apart) Church is also United (outdoors) Church! We'll continue to offer the **recorded worship services** and also a **10:00 am Sunday service outdoors**. The two services are similar in content but with different music. For the outdoor service, please register by noon each Friday. (You can register for several Sundays at one time.) All safety protocols are mandatory.