

## Prayers for a Season of Thanksgiving for All the Saints, the Good Earth, Bread, Children, and All of Life

On All Saints' Day, it is not just the saints of the church that we should remember in our prayers, but all the foolish ones and wise ones, the shy ones and overbearing ones, the broken ones and whole ones, the despots and tosspots and crackpots of our lives who, one way or another, have been our particular fathers and mothers and saints, and whom we loved without knowing we loved them and by whom we were helped to whatever little we may have, or ever hope to have, of some kind of seedy sainthood of our own.

Frederick Buechner

We return thanks to our mother, the Earth,  
which sustains us.  
We return thanks to the rivers and streams,  
which supply us with water.  
We return thanks to all herbs,  
which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases.  
We return thanks to the moon and stars,  
which have given to us their light when the sun was gone.  
We return thanks to the sun,  
that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye.  
Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit,  
in Whom is embodied all goodness,  
and Who directs all things for the good of Her children.

~ Iroquois ~

O Lord, that lends me life,  
Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness!

William Shakespeare (*Henry VI, Part II*. Act I, scene 1)

O God bless this food we are about to receive.  
Give bread to those who hunger,  
and a hunger for justice to those of us who have bread.

Nicaraguan Prayer

### A Prayer for Thanksgiving for Children

Thank you for the lives of the children in our care and in our prayers.  
Thank you for their hope and joy. Thank you for your guidance in their lives.  
Protect their minds, watch over their hearts, and lead them to great adventures.

Monthly publication

United Church of Santa Fe  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

November 2024

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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

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Dear Friends,

Many years ago, I found a prayer written by a Jesuit priest in Nicaragua. It began:

*To bring light in our shadows,  
Christ is born.  
To upset our world,  
Christ is born.  
To bring the peace that we cannot buy,  
Christ is born, every day.*

The prayer continues:

*To fill the hungry with food,  
Christ is born.  
To comfort those who mourn,  
Christ is born.  
To break the spear and silence the guns,  
Christ is born, every day.*

It ends with the affirmation:

*In every heart that hopes,  
Christ is born, every day.*

We've often used the prayer in the weeks leading to Christmas (and this newsletter does include information about the First Sunday of Advent ☺). But I think it's a good prayer for November, too. As I listen to the news in these weeks leading to the election, I wonder how we can possibly proclaim Christ has come—or will come—into this shadowed world. Peace, whether on earth or in our hearts, seems like a pipe dream. Hungry children still cry for food. Friends and loved ones still walk through the valleys of shadows.

Yet as the priest's prayer reminds us, Christ is *still* born—not just Christmas Day, but every day. In every voice for justice, every call for peace, every word of comfort, Christ is born. *In every heart that hopes, Christ is born every day.*

I also believe that in every decision to love our neighbor as ourselves, every commitment to love this world as God so loves, Christ is born, too.

November is a time for such decisions. When we vote, we do so not only for ourselves but for our neighbor, whether in our nation and state or around the world. When we vote, we are deciding whether or not to follow the One who blessed the birds of the air, the grass of the field, and all creation. The Jesuit priest might even ask us if our vote lets Christ's ways of hope and love be born in our world.

We also make other decisions this month. For United, as for many congregations, this is Stewardship season, when each of us is asked to make our financial commitment for United in the coming year. I believe our pledges have the same plumbline as our votes. Do they reflect love for neighbor and creation? Does our individual pledge express our commitment for Christ's mercy and justice to be born in our world? Are our pledges signs of hope—for the future and for all?

In every vote we cast, every pledge we make this month, we can affirm that God's love for this world—all people, all creation—is born anew.

*In every heart that hopes, Christ is born—every day.* Let's remember that this November.

Blessings,



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*Election Eve Service of Prayer and Readings – Monday, Nov. 4 – 5:30 pm*  
**United Church also open for prayer on Election Day: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm**

# Worship in November

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## *Walk the Path of Life, Walk the Path of Thanks*

In November, we conclude our exploration of the Book of Job; welcome singer, pianist, composer Ken Medema; and celebrate “Thanks-singing.” Then on Dec. 1, we start Advent’s journey to Christmas. Fasten your seatbelts—and invite a friend!

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



### *Answer to Job*

#### **All Saints Sunday (wear red) – November 3**

When God finally engaged Job directly, the Almighty’s answer to his suffering was odd. No extended theological explanation, no pastoral care. Instead, God asked “Where were you when I made heaven and earth,” horses and hippopotami? (Job 38-41) Maybe God wasn’t pulling rank, but instead putting Job’s life in perspective, connecting him to all creation, revealing that the mystery of life is a mystery of infinite wonder. On All Saints Sunday, perhaps saints are those who understand God’s answer to Job and who found their place in God’s never-ending circle of life. It’s just a thought.



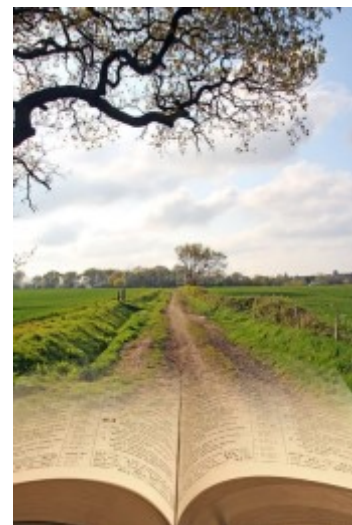
### *Blessed . . . to be a Blessing!* **November 10**

#### **with special guest Ken Medema.**

When Job finally encountered God directly, he was overcome with the beauty and majesty of all Creation and of the Creator. Our guest Ken Medema—composer, singers, pianist—reminds us through his music and his words of how the Creator blesses our lives, too.

### *The Path of Life – Psalm 16:1-11* **November 17**

“You show me the path of life,” the Psalmist proclaims. “I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.’” Two weeks after a national election (the outcome of which is not known in advance), Psalm 16 tells us where to put our trust in the One who calls us to stay connected and close, no matter what the future may bring. The only One who can show us the path of life.



### *Thanks-singing Sunday* **November 24**

“We were like those who dream,” proclaims Psalm 126, remembering God’s saving acts of life. “Offer prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings for everyone,” the author of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy reminded his community. And in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminded anyone who would listen to “look to the birds of the air and the grass of the field” to see God’s care and love for all creation, including us human creatures. (Matt. 6:25-33). Wonderful words of life and thanks for a wonderful service of “thanks-singing!” Share the wealth and bring a friend.



### **December 1 – First Sunday of Advent** **“Get Ready!” (and wear purple)**

# Stewardship 2025

*Blessed. . . to be a Blessing!*

## 2025 Campaign for United A Weekend with Ken Medema

Saturday, Nov. 9 – 3:00 pm Dessert; 4:00 Concert

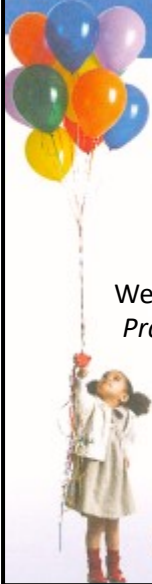
Sunday, Nov. 10 – 10:00 Worship Service & 11:15 Forum

(Both Saturday concert and Sunday Service in-person and livestreamed)

We've sung the music of composer Ken's music at United for many years (*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying; Tree Song*, etc.). He helps us sing of God's beauty, grace, and care—all reasons to give thanks to God by sharing our blessings. That's the essence of Christian Stewardship. On Saturday, Nov. 9, Ken offers a concert of his music, including songs he will make up on the spot from **your** stories. We'll also offer our pledges of support for United's future. We hope you'll join in both the 3:00 pm dessert and the 4:00 concert for all ages! (Ken is also our guest in the 10:00 Sunday service and 11:15 Adult Forum.)

**Blessed** TO BE A BLESSING.

"...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."



## Music

Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music

On November 9 and 10 we once again welcome the remarkable Ken Medema to be with us at United. Ken is one of the most creative and authentic artists performing today. He's also blind. About his upbringing Ken says, "I spent a lot of time by myself as a kid. Because I lived with some degree of being an outsider all my life, I identify with people who have been disenfranchised, whether they have been isolated, disabled, or oppressed."

In 1973 he decided to begin a career as a performing and recording artist. For five decades, he's used music as a vehicle for creating conversation through storytelling and reflection. With an ever-growing circle of friends around the world, Ken's artistry and imagination have reached audiences in 49 United States and in 15 countries on four continents.

Ken presents an afternoon concert on Sat., Nov. 9, and will be at the piano for worship on Sun., Nov. 10, at which time the Sanctuary Choir will sing two of his pieces. Don't miss time with one of the most remarkable musicians I've ever known!

Brad

### **Coro Lux presents Durufle's Requiem**

Bradley Ellingboe, Artistic Director

Sunday, Nov. 3 – 3:00 pm

Albuquerque's Episcopal Cathedral of St. John

(tix: abqcorolux.com)



### **Handel's Messiah**

SF Symphony and Chorus  
Lentic Theater—Santa Fe  
Saturday, Nov. 16 (7:00 pm) and  
Sunday, Nov. 17 (4:00 pm)

## Children & Youth

Karen Wilbanks, Chair

### **Welcome New Children's Ministry Teacher Andrea Gonzalez!**

We are delighted to welcome Andrea Gonzalez to United's staff as our new Children's Ministry Teacher. She joins Children's Ministry Assistant Maria Navarette and brings a lot of experience. She's on the staff with Growing Up New Mexico's Kaune School and also a student in SF Community College's Early Childhood program. She loves working with kids of all ages, helping them know God's love and how to show that love to others. Come on Sundays to get acquainted!



### **A Big Thank You to Karen Wilbanks and Gail Ansheles for Leading Children's Ministry!**

For four years, Children's Ministry Chair Karen Wilbanks and volunteer Gail Ansheles have offered their leadership, care, and expertise for United's kids. Their commitment ensured United's commitment to children continued, even without staff. Please take a moment to thank them both!



Sunday, October 27

Halloween Cookies  
for the Firefighters



Watch for Emails and Texts about  
November Events for Children & Youth!



# CARE AND CONCERN

## PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR WORLD



### Prayers for Wisdom, Guidance, and Courage . . .

- as our country goes to the polls to elect new leaders this month.

### Prayers of Thanks for:

- **The Children, Youth and Adult Liturgists, Children’s Leaders, Choir, Greeters,** and other volunteers whose leadership and commitment help create such great Sunday mornings at United each week.
- **The Stewardship/Finance Ministry and Parish Life Ministry Teams,** organizing this fall’s Stewardship work and especially the Sat., Nov. 9, “Cookies, Conversation and Concert” with Composer/Pianist Ken Medema.
- Pianists **Jacquelyn Helin, Lin Raymond, Andy Kingston, and Cheney Doane,** who have all subbed for Sunday 10:00 services since mid-August as we continue the search for a Worship Pianist.

### Prayers of Blessing and New Life for:

- **Alan Andrade and his mother** (part of Blanca Surgeon’s family), who immigrated from Ecuador (including a journey through the Darien Gap) and are reuniting with other family in Philadelphia.
- New Council members **Joan Snider** (Adult Faith Formation) and **Dusty Caruso** (Outreach) and new Children’s Teacher **Andrea Gonzalez!**

### Prayers of Thanks for the Life of:

- **Cliff Beck,** whose Memorial Service to give thanks for his life and commit his soul to God’s eternal light and life will be Friday, Nov. 1, 10:00 am at United.

### Prayers of Healing and Hope for:

- **Alice Casey and her family,** mourning the death of her husband **Cliff Beck** and their daughter **Jenna,** who passed away within a week of each other in October; **Rev. Delois Brown-Daniels and her family,** following the death of her husband Dr. David Daniels, Professor of World Christianity at McCormick Theological School; **Msgr. Jerome Martinez and his family** mourning the loss of his sister, Bernadette Martinez Apodaca; for the family of **Carol and Dick Van Deusen,** who both died recently (Carol was United’s Office Administrator 1988-1996); the family and loved ones of **Janice Ballard,** United’s Youth Director 1997-2000, then part of United until she and her partner Sharon Elias and daughter Jasmine moved to Colorado.
- All who are dealing with difficult health issues (**Blanca Surgeon’s mother, Ray and Nancy Lutz, Diane Bethune, Rev. Kathleen Jimenez, Maria Navarette, Maureen McCarthy, Rev. Roger and Linda Knapp, Dorothy Patinka, Rhae Burden, Theresa Kline,** and others).
- Those recovering from surgery (**Janyth Fell, Maureen McCarthy,** and others).
- Members and friends dealing with **Covid.**
- Those living with cancer and those who love and care for them (**Greg Gaertner, Anna Spalding, Diane Bethune’s brother Jeffery, Mary Hasbah Roessel’s brother Monty.**)
- Those with **memory loss** and all who care for them (inc. **Royce and Carolyn Stewart** and others); persons living with Parkinson’s or other neurological conditions, (**Sandy Vermillion, Monsignor Jerome Martinez, Diane Johnston’s sister, Rhae Burden,** and others); those with chronic pain or illness (**Brooke Roberts, Jan McGough,** and others).
- Persons in long-term care or assisted living (**Helen Wagner; Merry and Al Converse, Natalie Wells).**
- Individuals and families dealing with mental health and/or addiction issues. (If you or someone else is struggling emotionally, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988) provides 24/7, free, confidential support and crisis resources for people in distress.)
- Communities, families, and individuals recovering from devastating hurricanes and floods in the U.S.
- The people of Palestine, Israel, and Lebanon, along with U.S. Jews, Palestinians, and other Arab Muslims and Christians, and for all government and military leaders who need God’s wisdom, guidance, and commitment to a just peace.
- Continued prayers for Nigeria, Sudan, Ukraine, Central America, and other places impacted by war; people seeking asylum from violence; **policymakers** who determine their fate.

#### 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))



#### Congregational Care for November



**On Call: John Shaffer (505) 466-4372**  
**Food: June Yoder (505) 503-0555**

# Outreach

## LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR, LOVE CREATION

### *Outreach Opportunities – Thank you!*

Go online to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe NM 87505.

### MANY THANKS FOR MANY GIFTS!

Through the generosity of United friends, far and near, we supported neighbors and creation, near and far:

- \$3,110 for United Church of Christ Hurricane Relief throughout the southern U.S.
- \$2,160 for Santa Fe Food Depot.
- 399 Hygiene Kits for Church World Service to send our neighbors in Gaza and Ukraine.
- \$2,909 for *Roots*, the Palestinian Israeli Peace Initiative in the West Bank.
- 170 suppers for the guests of Santa Fe's Shelters.
- 17 bags of trash and one grocery cart from the Santa Fe River Cleanup for Watershed Assoc.

### LOVE NEIGHBOR

#### United's Shelter Supper Ministries

Help provide supper for guests of St. Elizabeth, Casa Familia Family, and Interfaith Shelters by volunteering or financially with an online donation or check (memo: shelter meals). Thank you!

- **Fri., Nov. 22 – Chop & Grate (9:30 am)** at United.
- **Mon., Nov. 25** – Deliver food to shelters.
- Make meat loaf at home (13 loaves needed).

#### *Supporting Our Diné/Navajo Brothers and Sisters*

Your financial support for covid relief work (cleaning supplies, food, masks) continue to make a difference. Donations go to United's long-time partner, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Fort Defiance, AZ.



#### Toiletries for Shelter Christmas Bags and "Socks-Giving"

#### Community Room Boxes for all items

- ◆ Individual new toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush) for Christmas Bags the children assemble for St. Elizabeth Shelter guests (No mouthwash, medications, razors).
- ◆ Donate new pairs of warm socks for children, women, men in SF Shelters.



### LOVE CREATION

#### United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change and Climate Disasters

When you drive or fly, mitigate carbon you emit through United's "**Carbon Offset Program.**" \$4/hour in flight or \$4/1,000 miles driving supports hands-on work of *Tree New Mexico* and climate advocacy of *NM Interfaith Power and Light*. Info at: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care).



#### Compost Collection for Creation!

United's Compost Partnership with **Reunity Resources** saves water, land, and fossil fuel by turning food waste into compost. Pick up compostable bags in Community Room (**NO** standard plastic bags, please) and bring your compost to put in the church's bin. Thanks!

#### Compassionate Christmas Gifts Market Starts Sunday, Dec. 1 through Dec. 15

In the true spirit of Christmas, give United's *Compassionate Christmas Gifts* that give hope, care, and joy all around the world. The market is after both the 8:30 and 10:00 services, Dec. 1, 8, and 15. Gifts include everything from blankets for refugees and children's "comfort backpacks" to gift cards for families in need, legal services for immigrants, and even more. Watch for more info soon!

# Adult Faith Formation

## November Sunday Forums – 11:15



### **“To Seek Christ’s Face” Images of Jesus in Art Through the Ages Oct. 27 – Nov. 24**

As United explores who Jesus was and is for us, join Molly Elkind for a four-week exploration of images of Jesus in art, from the days in the catacombs to the present. What can we learn from the ways in which Jesus has been and is today portrayed in visual terms? Here’s the schedule:

- Oct. 27: Christ as Good Shepherd, Teacher & Sage
- Nov. 3: Christ Pantocrator, Blessing & Sustaining
- Nov. 17: Christ on the Cross, Resurrected & Reformed
- Nov. 24: Christ Among Us, Son of Man & Bread of Heaven

### **What’s Happening at the New Mexico Border Nov. 3 (a Sunday with 2 Forums!)**

Avril Ekstrand and Melanie Lohman of United’s Immigration and Refugee Task Force recently traveled to southern New Mexico to visit refugee shelters and talk with people along the border. They share an update about this issue which is a major part of the Presidential and state elections.



### **A Life of Faith and Song – Nov. 10**

Our special weekend guest, composer and pianist Ken Medema, shares his journey of faith and life. What gives him hope? What does being Christian mean to him? How has his faith changed? Join in the conversation!

## Groups and Gatherings

### **Wednesday Women’s Study Group Nov. 6 and 20 (10:00 am)**

They continue *The Personal Librarian* by Heather Terrell and Victoria Christopher Murray and begin *After Annie* by Anna Quindlen. Join in! For info, please contact Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, [mom\\_morton@gmail.com](mailto:mom_morton@gmail.com)) or Jenn Wynn (817-219-0707, [home@wynnes.us](mailto:home@wynnes.us)).

### **Pretty Good Guys**

#### ***The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Lord’s Prayer***

(Wednesdays, Nov. 13 and 27; 10:30 to 12:00)

Scholar John Dominic Crossan challenges us to engage this well-known prayer’s revolutionary message. The Pretty Good Guys welcome all men to join them in their exploration of Crossan’s “The Greatest Prayer.” Books available in the Community Room.



### **Moses and Jesus Go to the Movies**

Renesan Series with Talitha Arnold  
Jean Cocteau Theater – 418 Montezuma, Santa Fe  
Thursdays, Nov. 7 & 14 – 3:30 to 5:00  
Info/Registration: [tinyurl.com/Renesan](http://tinyurl.com/Renesan)

### **Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of Mark Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom**

Engage the Gospel of Mark, start to finish (don’t worry, it’s the shortest Gospel), using the United Church of Christ Study Guide (written by Talitha). Info/register at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). All welcome!



### **All United Members/Friends Invited to Join “Exploring the Pandemic’s Impact on Congregations” (EPIC) National Survey**

In 2022, the United Church of Santa Fe was chosen as one of 300 churches nationwide for a 5-year study of the pandemic’s impact on congregations. Led by the Hartford Institute and funded by the Lilly Endowment, the initial data was gleaned from clergy and lay leaders, and proved very helpful in understanding the challenges churches now face. This year, the EPIC study includes all participants from the 300 congregations. Soon United members and friends will receive this link to the survey: [https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=99202](https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=99202). We hope you’ll join in and complete it by November 15. Our goal is 75% participation of the United community! Questions? Please contact Talitha Arnold or Moderator Sarah Sawtell. Thank you!

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE  
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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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](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org)). We also offer an **8:30 am Contemplative 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](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com), go to our website. Thank you!